2268

Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2268 June 26, 1986

MIXED SIGNALS FOR AG OUTLOOK

The world economic growth in 1986 will average about 2.9 pct., near last year's estimated 3.1 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Slowdowns in Japan and the oil exporting countries may more than offset accelerating growth in Europe and, possibly, the developing countries of Asia. Inflation could decline further in the face of monetary restraint in many countries, reduced prices for petroleum and other commodities, and continued high unemployment rates. For the developed economies, inflation will almost certainly fall below the 4 pct. average of 1985. Interest rates are expected to remain low, compared with the 1980-85 average.

DOLLAR STILL UNDER PRESSURE

The U.S. dollar is still under pressure. It recently fell to a series of postwar lows against the Japanese yen, breaking below 160 yen before recovering. Movements in the dollar's value are strongly related to the price of a wide variety of internationally traded goods, including agricultural products. When the dollar rises, world prices in dollars fall and vice versa. Judging from the past, a long trend of dollar depreciation foretells upward pressure on international commodity prices, including food, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

WHERE'S THE PORK CHOP?

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on June 1, 1986, is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 48 million, 800 thousand head. This is 7 pct. below a year ago and 8 pct. below June 1, 1984. This is the lowest June 1 inventory since 1975. The breeding inventory at 6 million, 390 thousand head is the lowest June 1 breeding inventory since the establishment of June 1 U.S. inventory in 1964. Market hog inventory, at 42½ million head, is 6 pct. below a year ago and 7 pct. below two years ago.

WHEAT CLASSING

Effective as of June 20, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has has established a new interim wheat classing procedure for nontraditional hard wheats which will be based on marketing area and intended class rather than kernel characteristics. The new grading procedure was agreed to at a workshop at the USDA, that included wheat producers and grain and milling industry representatives. A new classing system will be proposed this summer that meets long-term marketing needs, beginning with the 1987 crop.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A21.34!

U.S. TRADE BALANCE

The contribution of agriculture to the U.S. trade balance continues to shrink, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This year's agricultural trade surplus, forecast at $7.5 billion, will be the smallest in over a decade. The volume of U.S. agricultural exports will decline for the sixth straight year in fiscal 1986, while the value of agricultural imports will probably reach a record high for the third consecutive year.

DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

An estimated 24,200 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending June 2, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This total includes cows, heifers and calves. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through June 2 is an estimated 447,000 head.

ARGENTINA WHEAT EXPORT TAX

The Argentine wheat export tax for the 1986/87 crop year was lowered from 15 to 5 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The announcement follows a strike where farmers demanded a lower tax because of falling world wheat prices and generally depressed agricultural conditions. The announcement was made before planting, which allows farmers time to increase plantings. A larger crop likely would mean intensified competition for U.S. wheat.

SOYBEAN DAMAGE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service will hold a public meeting Thursday, July 10, to discuss possible changes in soybean damage interpretation. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the Airport Kings Inn, 9600 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Mo.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in May 1986, totaled 3 billion, 390 million pounds, down 3 pct. from May 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Jan.-May red meat production was 16 billion, 400 million pounds, up 1 pct. from last year. Beef production was 2 billion, 110 million pounds for May 1986, up 1 pct. from May 1985. Pork production was 1 billion, 210 million pounds in May 1986, down 9 pct. from May 1985.

FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES, 1985

Farm production expenditures totaled nearly $126 billion in 1985, down 1.9% from just over $128 billion in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lower expenditures for feed, interest, and farm machinery were partially offset by increased livestock and poultry purchases, labor expenses and farm services. Farm services, including rent, represented the largest expenditures for farmers, accounting for 22 pct. of the total. Feed accounted for 14 pct. of the total.

NO FRAUD IN BLOOD SAMPLES

It's illegal to use fraudulent blood samples for any animal tests, and this includes tests used for diagnostic purposes, interstate shipment or for export, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since the beginning of the surveillance program last June, 84,734 blood samples from animals were analyzed for fraud and 47 cases have come under federal investigation. Penalties may include jail, fines or both.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT DAIRY OUTLOOK...The dairy termination program is expected to be the dominant force shaping milk production this year, but a number of other factors will also have their influence. USDA economist Clifford Carman examines those factors in the current dairy situation and outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (216)

CURRENT TOBACCO OUTLOOK...U.S. tobacco disappearance is expected to decline about three percent this season because of reduced domestic use and lower exports. USDA economist Verner Grise takes a look at the current situation and outlook for tobacco. Vic Powell interviews. (217)

ARS RESEARCH REPORT...USDA research scientists in Fort Collins, Colorado, are studying listening devices to detect sounds that plants make; and research scientists in Albany, California, are detecting food in luggage using video. Will Pemble interviews. (218)

ARS RESEARCH REPORT...A study to determine if cattle and sheep can graze together, and research work to find a biological control weapon against pink bollworm are the focus of current research work by agricultural scientists. Will Pemble interviews. (219)

GRAIN QUALITY CONCERNS...Lowell Hill, Univ. of Illinois, focuses on the grain quality issues and concerns and whether or not they are significant enough to affect exports. Gary Beaumont interviews. (220)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1517...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Problems that parents have raising adolescent children. In this edition of Agriculture USA, Gary Crawford explores the problems that parents are having these days trying to keep their teenage children on the right track.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1506...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Cotton certificates; Export optimism; Importing grain; Farmland values.

CONSUMER TIME #999...(Weekly reel of news features) The White House and capital pear trees; Avoiding skin problems; Good news for coffee drinkers; Goat cheeses; Lentils.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, June 30, Agricultural prices; Tues, July 1, Weekly crop and weather report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Welcome visitor in the office...Stu Ellis (WSOY, Decatur, Ill.). He had just returned from a trip to the Soviet Union as the only farm broadcaster with a group of Illinois farmers and agribusiness people. The group also visited Hungary and Poland, except Stu. He went to Vienna instead of Poland, because his visa wasn't approved for Poland. "Probably because I was a reporter," he says ... We've been meaning to report a recent phone conversation with John Baker. He's the author of the book, "Farm Broadcasting: The First 60 Years" now out of print. He reported that Skip Ragland (Ciba-Geigy, Greensboro, NC) had arranged to distribute the remaining copies of the book to NAFB members. Nice touch ... Letter from Von Ketelsen (Communicating for Agriculture, Fergus Falls, Minn) in which he reports he's distributing his up-beat 90-second "Focus" program to over 100 radio stations. You want more info, he'll be at the fall NAFB meeting in Kansas City ... Speaking of Ketelsen, this time brother Lynn Ketelsen. He's back from the Paris Ag Show. And his Achilles tendon injury suffered last fall is healed and he's into a full schedule of activities, including of course, travel to France ... You may notice a new voice on our USDA News Line. She's Sara Edwards, summer intern, senior at George Mason University across the Potomac in Virginia ... Former summer intern Kathleen Lonergan, now with Agriculture Radio Net, Little Rock, Ark., reports she achieved a new high: third prize in the Arkansas Buffalo Chip Chucking Contest. She chucked one 130 feet. We're impressed! ... Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago, Ill.) received the Chicago Farmers Club's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Our congratulations! Incidentally, about the time you're reading this, Orion will be in England to, among other things, attend the Royal Agriculture Show ... Bob Bosold (WAXX, Eau Claire, Wis.) reports his Alaska Farm Tour to Alaska this August is booked solid. (They're touring via "Mosquito Airlines.")

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2269 July 3, 1986

WINTER WHEAT TEAM REPORTS

A U.S. winter wheat team that just returned from a 9-day tour of the USSR reports the Soviets are adopting a new "intensive technology." Intensive technology combines the use of all the necessary inputs--seed, fertilizer, other agricultural chemicals, equipment and labor--on the best land. The target for the Soviets' 1986 crop is 220 to 230 million tons. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 1986 Soviet grain output at 185 million tons from an area of 118 million hectares (296 million acres).

SLAUGHTER UNDER DAIRY PROGRAM

As a result of the Dairy Termination Program, an estimated 24,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally inspected plants during the week ending June 14, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered from April 1 through June 14 is estimated at 471,700 head.

1985 CASH FLOW

Farmers' cash flow positions improved during 1985 largely because of continued high direct government payments and greatly increased Commodity Credit Corporation loans, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' equity declined and their debt-to-asset ratios increased due to declining land values. Net farm income in 1985 was in the $29-32 billion range, slightly below the 1984 level of $34 billion, according to preliminary analysis. Net cash income last year rose to $43-46 billion from $38-39 billion in recent years. Off-farm income continued to grow in 1985, reaching $40-42 billion. Overall, debt owed by operators for farm purposes declined about $7 billion, with only the Commodity Credit Corporation showing a major increase in lending in 1985.

JULY LOAN RATE: 6-3/4

Commodity loans disbursed in July by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will carry a 6-3/4 pct. interest rate.

RESERVE SIGN-UP

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that sign-up for the 1987 Conservation Reserve Program will take place Aug. 4-15 at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices. Lyng said, "We are pleased with the response from farmers during the 1986 signup. Now that producers are aware of the other provisions of the Act, such as sodbuster and conservation compliance, we expect even more interest by producers in the Program this year."

U.S. GRAIN TO TAIWAN

Taiwan has renewed its five-year grain agreement with the U.S., effective July 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The agreement calls for minimum imports of 14-3/4 million metric tons--2.4 million tons above what is called for in the current agreement.

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A21.39:

U.S. BEEF OFFERED TO EEC

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation is seeking tender offers from the European Economic Community to purchase U.S. high-quality beef. This is the second invitation for offers from the EEC. (Additional details are available from the Export Credits Division of FAS, Room 4503-South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: 202/382-9240.)

FARM DEBT

In 1985, 21 pct. of farms, which owed 66 pct. of the debt, had a high debt-to-asset ratios. In 1984, 19 pct. of farms, owing 62 pct. of the debt, had high debt-to-asset ratios. The proportion of farms with the most serious financial problems declined from about 12.5 pct. in 1984 to about 11 pct. a year later. The Upper Midwest had the highest proportion of farms at risk because of debts. Three regions - the Corn Belt, Northern Plains and Lake States - accounted for over two-thirds of these farms. Financial stress also was highly concentrated among farms with annual sales of $40,000 and above, among grain and general livestock farms, and among younger and middle-aged farmers. About 40 pct. of all farms in the nationwide survey owed no debt on Jan. 1, 1986, and another 40 pct. had debts equal to less than 40 pct. of the value of their assets.

OLD CROP WHEAT STOCKS

Old crop wheat stored on and off farms on June 1, 1986, is estimated at a record high of 1 billion, 900 million bushels, up 33 percent from the 1 billion, 430 million bushels stored on June 1, 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Off-farm stocks, at 1 billion, 220 million bushels, are 64 pct. of the total stocks and are up 45 pct. from June 1 a year ago. Wheat stored on farms totaled 681 million bushels, up 17 pct. from last June 1. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during April-May 1986 is 230 million bushels, off 5 pct. from the disappearance during the same period last year.

CORN STOCKS

Corn that is stored on and off farms on June 1, 1986, is estimated at 4 billion, 990 million bushels, 76 pct. more than the June 1, 1985 level of 2 million, 840 million bushels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Of the total corn stocks on-hand on June 1, 63 pct. or 3 billion, 140 million bushels were stored on farms. Farm stocks were 56 pct. higher than June 1, 1985 farm stocks. Off-farm stocks, at 1 billion, 850 million bushels, are up 123 pct. from last June 1. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during April-May 1986 totaled 956 million bushels, down 15 pct. from the disappearance during the comparable quarter a year ago.

1987 WHEAT PROGRAM

On June 30, Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng set the national average loan and purchase level for the 1987 wheat crop at $2.28 per bushel, down from $2.40 per bushel for the current year. The enrollment period for the 1987 wheat program will begin Oct. 1, 1986 and end Mar. 30, 1987.

NO QUOTA TRIGGERED BY MEAT EXPORTS

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the third quarterly estimate of U.S. meat imports for 1986 is below the level that would require quotas on imports under the Meat Import Act of 1979. Lyng said, "Our analysis...suggests there will be no need for import restrictions for the remainder of the year."

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Agriculture's contribution to the U.S. trade balance continues to shrink, but a major realignment of currency is underway that may provide some relief for our export picture. USDA economist Cecil Davison examines the situation and outlook for world agriculture. Vic Powell interviews. (221)

FARM SUBSIDY ISSUE...Some large farm operations are dividing into smaller units to bypass the $50,000 limit on crop program benefits. Tom Van Garlem with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service takes a look at the extra subsidies issue and how widespread it has become. Vic Powell interviews. (222)

WIND EROSION UPDATE...Winds damaged almost 8.4 million acres of land in the Great Plains but this was slightly below the 8.5 million wind-damaged acres reported for the region last year. Bill Fecke, with USDA's Soil Conservation Service, talks about factors contributing to the current decrease. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (223)

GYPSY MOTH SPREAD...Gary Moorehead with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, describes the damage caused by gypsy moths and the types of control methods underway to stop the spread of this insect. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (224)

FARM FINANCIAL STRESS...Allan Lines, Ohio State University Extension Farm Management, talks about financial stress on U.S. farms and how current statistics and figures change in terms of economic conditions when the farm "business" instead of the farm family becomes the focus. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (225)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1518...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Seaweed is a lot more than green slime. It currently represents some important research that could eventually open up a cure for cancer. Jim Johnson reports.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1507...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; 1987 wheat program; 1987 conservation reserve signup; Farmland values; Farm trade deficit; Record dry weather in Southeast.

CONSUMER TIME #1000...(Weekly reel of consumer features) Save now; Rice weaving; Reversing skin damage; Lightening and its dangers; A fading culture.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, July 11, Crop production report; Mon, July 14, Min. outlook report; Tues, July 15, Weekly crop and weather update; Wed, July 16, Milk production outlook.

OFF MIKE

Gary Truitt (Indiana Agri-Business Net, Indianapolis) reports he has a new co-worker, Holly Downing, a June graduate of Ohio State University ... Nelson Robinson (USDA/ASCS Radio/TV and producer "Agriculture Update"), in talking with Gene Ragan (WTVY/Ragan Farm Net), learned that Gene has finished his 28th year of continuous television broadcasting and is into his 33rd year on radio. He said he figured others had him beat on years on radio but is wondering if there is anyone with more continuous years on TV. Any takers? ... Max Stewart (KXOK, St. Louis, MO) has a different question. He does a show where he interviews a guest, then takes questions live from listeners. He'd like to hear from other farm broadcasters who are doing the same kind of show and exchange ideas. Call him at 314-727-6500 ... Latest promotional idea comes from Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, Kans). His station is buying wheat at $5.00 a bushel...1,000 bushels to be exact. It's all being done in an effort to help people realize what's happened to Kansas wheat prices. Farmers had to register for a drawing, and two will be picked to sell their wheat. Incidentally, Kelly also reports their intern this summer is Wally Brockhoff. He's a Kansas State Univ ag econ major ... The newest ag network on line is the Pacific Northwest Farm Network. Ron Arp (KWHT, Pendleton, Oreg.) will be handling the broadcast chores. He reports the network started up June 30 with 20 stations from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana on board ... In the "Nothing New Under the Sun" category, our archives revealed an item in a 1963 USDA staff report which says, "The U.S./Common Market 'flap' over chicken exports continues to be big news. Poultry is just a vehicle for the major problem of EEC import restrictions." Unrelated item in same report: Layne Beaty reports that Margaret Desatnik makes her television debut this week." Margaret doesn't do TV anymore, but she writes half of this newsletter, among other things.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2270 July 10, 1986

OPTION TO EXTEND LOANS

Producers holding Commodity Credit Corporation loans on 1985 crops of feed grains, rye, soybeans and wheat, at their option, may extend the loans for 12 months, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. The action was taken to encourage producers to take advantage of all available on-farm storage space in preparation for the projected large grain harvests this fall. The action would also give additional marketing flexibility to producers who have outstanding or unsettled matured loans on those 1985 crops.

OCT.-MAY EXPORTS AT $19.1

U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-May 1986 totaled just over $19 billion, down $4 billion, 400 million, or 18 pct., from the same period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume during the first eight months of fiscal 1986 totaled 78 million, 600 thousand tons, off approximately 17 pct. from just over 95 million tons exported during the first eight months of fiscal 1985. Exports during May 1986 totaled $1 billion, 860 million, down $249 million, or 12 pct., from May 1985, and 12 pct. below the $2 billion, 120 million exported during the previous month.

AG IMPORTS INCREASED

U.S. agricultural imports for Oct.-May 1986 came to $14 billion, 300 million, up 6 pct. from the Oct.-May 1985 total, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports for May 1986 totaled just over $2 billion, 20 pct. above May 1985. The overall net surplus of agricultural trade during Oct.-May 1986 amounted to $4 billion, 800 million, down 52 pct. from a net surplus of $10 billion during the same period a year earlier.

WHY THE AG TRADE DEFICIT?

U.S. agricultural trade experienced a deficit for May 1986 of $152 million. This is the first such occurrence since Aug. 1971 when exports were delayed by a longshoremen's strike. Except for deficits during strikes, exports have been a surplus since Sept. 1959. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the May 1986 deficit can be attributed to: Stepped up imports of coffee and fresh vegetables, especially tomatoes, and deferred exports due to the speculation of foreign buyers that the new farm bill will cause market prices to drop.

PIGS TO CHINA

The fifth shipment of U.S. breeding swine to the People's Republic of China has been released from quarantine in China, giving American breeders a stronger foothold in this competitive market, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A total of 5,351 U.S. swine have been exported to China since an agreement was reached between the two countries in 1984.

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A21.34:

SOME CROPS DO BETTER THAN OTHERS

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the sharpest year-to-year market declines in foreign trade so far in fiscal 1986 continue to be concentrated in exports of wheat, corn, rice, grain sorghum, cotton, tobacco, soybean oil and sunflowerseed exports. Such declines were only partially offset by value gains in the exports of soybeans, soybean meal, livestock and products, dairy products, poultry products, corn glutten feed, wheat flour and some horticultural products, including tree nuts, wine and other alcoholic beverages, vegetables and fruits.

THE CITRUS CANKER BATTLE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing Florida with $250,000 in Federal funds to assist with survey and regulatory activities needed to contain a new outbreak of citrus canker, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. In addition, the USDA is continuing to provide Florida with over $1 million worth of vehicles and support equipment, including computers, radios and office equipment which were used during the last outbreak.

CIGARETTE USE DECLINES

During 1985/86, Americans' cigarette consumption declined 2 pct. from last year's 598 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Per capita use was down even more because the adult population was larger. The drop was largely due to higher prices, most of which resulted from increases in manufacturers' costs and higher State excise taxes. In addition, antismoking activity and restrictions on where people can smoke are likely reducing demand. The cigarette output in 1985/86 is estimated at 650 billion, about 2 pct. fewer than last year.

RAIN & GRAIN IN SPAIN

Hot, dry and windy weather has substantially reduced the 1986 grain production prospects in Spain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total 1986 grain production is estimated at nearly 16 million tons, down 13 pct. from the previous estimate and 22 pct. below the record 1985 crop. The adverse weather has particularly affected winter grain crops, mostly wheat and barley. A more favorable outlook is projected for spring planted grains, with 1986 corn production forecast at a record 3¼ million tons, slightly above last year's harvest.

U.S. & EC ON SPAIN

The United States and the European Community reached a compensation agreement that sets an average import target for Spain of 234,000 tons of U.S. corn per month for next 6 months at a lower import levy. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the negotiated levy, while not yet fixed, will be higher than the 20 pct. before Spain joined the EC, and less than the current EC variable levy which has reached more than $150 per ton, nearly double the world price for corn.

GOOD WEATHER IN YUGO

Favorable spring and early summer weather in Yugoslavia has boosted 1986 grain production prospects, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total 1986 grain production is estimated at nearly 17½ million tons, 3 pct. short of the record 1984 harvest. Wheat production is estimated at nearly 5 million tons, virtually unchanged from last year. Corn production is forecast at a record 11½ million tons, 16 pct. above last year's drought-reduced harvest. Yugoslavian corn exports have averaged almost 1 million tons per year.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CITRUS CANKER OUTBREAK...The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing Florida with $250,000 in Federal funds to assist with survey and regulatory activities needed to contain a new outbreak of citrus canker. Bill Helms with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service talks about this latest outbreak. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (226)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - I...USDA economist Stephen Sposato focuses on current issues facing the European Community, including EC support programs and the overall outlook for EC agricultural budget situations. Vic Powell interviews. (227)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - II...USDA economist Stephen Sposato continues his discussion on EC/US trade relations and issues, focusing on EC budget problems and the outlook for European agricultural policy. Vic Powell interviews. (228)

BOVINE BIOTECHNOLOGY...Dairy farming has gone through dramatic change since the 1950's and emerging technologies promise to continue reshaping the industry. USDA dairy analyst Richard Fallert takes a look at these changes and how they affect the future of the dairy industry. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (229)

GAS SAFETY...Many changes have occurred in the past twelve years in gasoline used in automobiles and other gasoline-powered engines. Rollin Schneider, a Federal Extension farm safety coordinator with the University of Nebraska, focuses on these changes and what operators can do to insure safety. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (230)

Food & Fitness
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United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1519...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) With interest rates down, the number of people refinancing their home mortgages is up. Brenda Curtis talks with Colien Hefferan, USDA economist, about the do's and don't's of mortgage refinancing.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1508...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Sodbuster program details; Crop loan extension; Dairy buyout effects; Vegetable producers also feel financial pinch.

CONSUMER TIME #1001...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) The refinancing hassle; The cost of refinancing; Losing weight; Building a U.S. food image; Tales of American folk medicine.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, July 16, Milk production; Thurs, July 17, World tobacco situation, Cost of production report; Fri, July 18, Agricultural outlook report, World coffee situation; Mon, July 21, Catfish production; Tues, July 22, Crop and weather update; Wed, July 23, Poultry production; Fri, July 25, Cattle numbers. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Bob Givens reports from Amarillo, Texas, he's the new farm and ranch director at KGNC. He joins Radonna Long. Bob was at KFH, Wichita, Kans ... Mike Miller (KOLN, Lincoln, Neb) called to talk about this and that. He'll be among the farm broadcasters traveling to the Soviet Union, July 8-Aug 11. We don't have a complete list of all who are going, but we know Harry Martin (Indiana Rural Radio Network, New Palestine, Ind) is. We received his most recent newsletter, and it featured some interesting "Then and Now" information. Harry was a member of the first group of farmers to visit the Soviet Union in 1958. Now he's going back to see if things have changed. We'll try to get the list of all the farm broadcasters making the trip for a future issue of this newsletter ... We had a phone conversation with Jim Stewart (KFYO, Lubbock, Tex) recently and, among other things, learned that he's got a nice partnership going with this son, Blair. KFYO put Blair on full time April 1, but he's still a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He does the morning shows. Dad handles the noon hour chores. (Nice maneuvering, Dad) ... Back in May we reported that the FFA magazine carried an article about Valerie Parks and the fact that she broadcast on Ed Johnson's AgriBroadcast Net while attending Ohio State University at Columbus. Ed reports Valerie graduated in mid-June and is now working full-time at the network ... We've been having fun looking into the archives file. The June 17, 1966, issue of the newly named Farm Broadcasters Letter (formerly the T-RFD Letter) reported the installation of the first recorder coupler at USDA Radio that would "...send recordings of spot news events and statements to you by phone." Which gives us a chance to brag. We have different machines and more of them, but we're still making spot news stories available....in fact, 774 stories and actualities during the first six months of the year (655 of them contained actualities). Not bad!! (Brag, brag.)

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2271 July 17, 1986

U.S. CROP PROD. HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights of the U.S. Crop Production report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1 billion, 550 million bushels, down 15 pct. from 1985, and the lowest level in 8 years. Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 76½ million acres, down 8 pct. from last year. Growers expect to harvest 69½ million acres for grain, down 8 pct. from last year. This is 91 pct. of the planted acres. Soybean area planted is expected to total nearly 62 million acres, down 2 pct. from 1985.

USSR 1986 CROP DOWN

The 1986 USSR grain crop is estimated at 180 million metric tons, down 5 million from the June estimate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hot dry weather in much of the European USSR throughout June caused yield reductions for barley, winter wheat and corn. Winter wheat is now estimated at 76 million tons, and coarse grains at 91 million tons.

USSR IMPORT ESTIMATE

The estimate of USSR grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year was increased by 2 million tons to 34 million, including 18 million wheat, 15 million coarse grains and one million miscellaneous grains, rice and pulses, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The estimate of coarse grain imports of 15 million tons is up from the year earlier level, but still well below the record 1984/85 total.

SO. AFRICA BUYS US WHEAT

South Africa's recent purchase of 66,000 tons of U.S. wheat should mean greater than expected U.S. wheat exports to that country during 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The sale brings South African purchases of U.S. wheat since May to 156,000 tons, which is substantially above last year's total exports of about 27,000 tons.

PHILIPPINES BUY US WHEAT

The Philippines are to purchase U.S. wheat under Public Law 480, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On July 8, the Philippines awarded contracts to buy 66,000 metric tons of Western White wheat, and 223,000 metric tons of Northern Spring/Dark Northern Spring wheat for delivery to U.S. ports from July 15 through Sept. 30.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A21.34

FmHA HOUSING FUNDS RESTORED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is authorized to reinstate $700 million in previously deferred housing loan funds, according to Vance Clark, Admin. of the FmHA. The funds will be available to low-income families in rural areas for single family or multi-family housing units. The funds will be available through Sept. 30, 1986. As of mid-June, FmHA had made loans of $1 billion, 17 million for housing--$666 million for single family housing and $351 million for apartments for this fiscal year. The agency's lending for housing totals $1 billion, 35 million in FY 1986.

USSR GRAIN PURCHASES

The grain buying activity of the USSR has been slow to develop for the 1986/87 marketing year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Contributing to the slow buying may be USSR expectations of lower prices as the 1986 world grain harvest accelerates and reduced USSR foreign exchange earnings. In recent years, shipments for this period have averaged nearly 4 million tons. As August marks the start of a new 5-year grain agreement between Canada and the USSR, it is quite likely that some sales have already been negotiated.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

The world wheat production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 504 million tons, up less than 1 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. United States production is estimated at nearly 59 million tons, down 11 pct. from last year. USSR wheat production is estimated at 76 million tons, down 8 pct. from the 1985 harvest. Canada wheat production is estimated at 27 million tons, up 13 pct. from last year's harvest. East Europe wheat production is estimated at 39 million tons, up 4 pct. from the 1985 harvest. European Community wheat production is estimated at nearly 73 million tons, up 2 pct. from the 1985 harvest.

WORLD COARSE GRAIN PROD.

The world coarse grains production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at nearly 819 million tons, up 3.4 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, but down 3 pct. from the record 1985/86 crop. Coarse grain production is estimated as follows: United States, 245 million tons, down 11 pct. from last year. USSR, 91 million tons, down 3 pct. from 1985 harvest. European Community, 82 million tons, down 7 pct. from last year. China, 93½ million tons of coarse grain, 11 pct. above last year. East Europe, nearly 70 million tons, up 1 pct. from the 1985 crop. Canada, 23½ million tons, down 5 pct. from last year's crop.

WORLD OILSEEDS PROD.

The world production of oilseeds for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 196½ million tons, up ½ million or less than 1 pct. from last month and up 1 pct. from last year's record. U.S. production is estimated at just over 58½ million tons, down 400 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 10 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at a record 138 million tons, up 900 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month and up 7 pct. from last year.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen talks about current weather conditions across the country. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (231)

USSR GRAIN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK...USDA Soviet analyst Keith Severin talks about current estimates for the 1986 Soviet grain crops and factors that are affecting it, including dry weather. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (232)

INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY IN USSR...A new system of "Intensive Technology" for producing winter wheat is being adopted by the Soviet Union. USDA Soviet analyst Keith Severin describes this system and how successful it has been so far. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (233)

TOP EXPORT NATIONS...Brazil, Canada and Argentina moved up, several European nations lost ground, and the U.S. held onto its wide first-place lead with an 18 percent share of the total value of world agricultural exports. USDA economist Arthur Mackie takes a look at this recent report on top exporting nations. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (234)

FEED SAMPLING ON LIVESTOCK FARMS...A simple and cheap feed sampling program on livestock farms could be a good insurance policy against problems that often develop due to feed contamination. Val Beasley with the University of Illinois focuses on this problem. Gary Beaumont interviews. (235)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1520...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) There's new varieties of wheat on the marketplace that are causing quite a stir. On this edition Brenda Curtis talks to leaders in the wheat industry as well as the Administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service, Kenneth Gilles, about the new nontraditional wheat and the controversy it's causing in the industry.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1509...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Lower rates on honey loan repayments; The effects of the Southeast drought; Lightning and its dangers; Classifying nontraditional wheat.

CONSUMER TIME #1002...(Weekly reel of news features) Sake in a barrel; IRA's a popular way to save; Seaweed; Air pollution and food; Finding the right mortgage lender.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, July 25, Cattle on feed; Tues, July 29, Weekly weather and crop summary; Thurs, July 31, Ag prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

We're imminently on our way to Fort Worth and the Summer NAFB meeting. By the looks of the advance program, it promises to be an excellent meeting. We're hoping to see you there ... Mike Ramsey (WRFD, Columbus, Ohio) was in town on a combined vacation/working visit. We arranged an interview with Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng for him. Prior to the interview he spent time talking either our Gary Crawford. Unfortunately we were out of the office that day, so we didn't get the chance to compare notes or visit about all the tourist attractions they (his wife was with him) got to and didn't get to see ... Will McCracken has decided to hang up his hat at Deere & Co. after 20 years and "retire" to an ag communications consultancy, his own ... Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago, Ill.) is back from his visit to the Royal Agriculture Show in England to pick up on a schedule of some rather extensive traveling in country to state and county affairs ... Earlier in this column we introduced you to our summer intern Sara Edwards. Sara had some scalp surgery last week and came back to work this week. Before surgery she had a spot that wouldn't grow hair. After surgery, the spot is gone and hair-growing scalp was stretched over the spot to replace it. In some circles, that's called the silver lining ... We've talked about the advantages of electronic mail before, and we're about to do it again. If you have it, you know already how much information can be tapped and the ease of sending and receiving messages with others on the same service. One big advantage we feel is USDA ONLINE, which provides very fast access to newly released crop reports, outlook and situation summaries, daily newswire summaries and national and regional press releases...plus the daily USDA Radio billboard of stories available on the line. If you want to learn more about this service, let us know.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

AUG 12 1986

Letter No. 2272 July 24, 1986

HELP FOR DROUGHT AREAS

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the mobilization of USDA resources to assist drought-stricken farmers in the Southeast. Said Lyng, "USDA waits until we have a request from the governor of an afflicted state to designate counties as a disaster area. Then we can provide emergency assistance." He named Jim Boillot, dep. asst. sec'y, to coordinate a department-wide drought task force charged with implementing a series of USDA actions, including a toll-free hotline 800-433-0703 to handle drought-related problems and assistance.

HARVEST IN USSR

The harvest of small grains and pulses in the Soviet is progressing at a good pace, reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of July 14, small grains and pulses had been cut on an area of 16½ million hectares (40 million acres) of which 12.5 million had been threshed. These figures are well ahead of those of a comparable date in 1985, when the season was about two weeks later than normal. They are slightly larger than the figures for the 1984 harvest but significantly smaller than in 1983.

SOVIET GRAIN AREA

The preliminary area of the 1986 Soviet grain crop is 118 million hectares (296 million acres), according to the mid-year plan fulfillment report published in the Soviet central press on July 20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is currently estimating the 1986 grain area to be about the same. For the 1985 crop, the preliminary area figure was nearly 119½million hectares (298 million acres), and the final figure was just short of 118 million hectares.

SOVIET GRAIN PROBLEMS

The Soviets have reported on grain harvest problems, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The problems in the 1986 Soviet winter wheat harvest include discoloration, reduced hardness and low test weights caused by weather peculiarities. As a result, grading standards were lowered, according to a Soviet newspaper report.

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PRICES BOOSTING EXPORT SALES

Sales for the new marketing year beginning in August and September are up substantially because new, lower U.S. prices for feed grains and cotton will take effect then, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Futures markets indicate that by Sept. corn may drop about 80 cents a bushel from the June average. Also, cotton futures prices are more than 30 cents a pound below current cash prices. The 1986/87 wheat marketing year has already begun, and wheat sales have risen, but most of the increase is due to the Export Enhancement Program. Feed grain exports during 1986/87 are forecast to rise nearly 30 pct. from a year earlier, and cotton exports may triple. U.S. wheat exports, which face stiff competition, are expected to climb about 20 pct.

GRAIN AFLOAT

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will use barges as temporary storage for grain stocks. The Commodity Credit Corporation will consider competitive offers for the use of up to 1,000 barges along the inland waterway system. According to Lyng, "Our primary interest...is to help relieve the potential tightness in storage space in the corn belt." One thousand barges will handle about 50 million bushels of corn. The USDA will announce procedures whereby the CCC will consider competitive offers for the use of barges.

SOYBEANS - SUPPLY & DEMAND

U.S. soybean production in 1986 will likely approach 1 billion 9 hundred million bushels, a substantial decline from 1985's nearly 2 billion 1 hundred million. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers had planted 61 million 8 hundred thousand acres of soybeans, down from last year's 63 million 1 hundred thousand. Soybean carryover stocks are expected to reach a record 515 million bushels in 1985/86, or 27 pct. of use. Demand in 1986/87 is expected to change little from 1985/86. Crush and exports are expected to remain virtually the same.

SOYBEANS - 1986 PRICES

Soybean prices are expected to be low for 1986/87, perhaps lower than 1985/86, if Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announces a lower loan rate for the 1986 crop. The current loan rate, $5.02 a bushel, has been effectively supporting the cash market. Lower futures prices probably reflect anticipation of a lower loan, perhaps as low as $4.77. If the new lower loan rate materializes and the 1986 crop is near the projected 1 billion 9 hundred million bushels, much of the 1985/86 carryover stocks could ultimately be in government hands. A 12-month loan extension was granted on 1985/86 crops.

PRODUCTION & EARNINGS OFF

The costs of producing most crops and livestock declined in 1985. The costs of capital replacement, which is investment in buildings and machinery, also fell for most farmers, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nevertheless, lower market prices reduced earnings to most crop growers and many livestock and milk producers. (For more information on costs of production, call Bob McElroy or Annette Clauson, 202-786-1801.)

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Lower prices are boosting export sales, according to the latest report on the current agricultural outlook. USDA economist Herb Moses talks about these and other factors relating to the latest agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (236)

OIL CROPS OUTLOOK...Soybean carryover stocks are expected to reach 515 million bushels in the 1985/86 season. USDA economist Roger Hoskin examines the impact this will have on 86/87 supplies and demand. Vic Powell interviews. (237)

U.S. EXPORTS - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE...USDA economist Clark Edwards focuses on the factors that indicate a change in direction for U.S. exports, including the pitfalls of dependence during recovery of export markets. Vic Powell interviews. (238)

U.S. EXPORTS - II...USDA economist Clark Edwards continues his discussion on exports in the U.S. focusing in on alternatives to expanding our exports. Vic Powell interviews. (239)

U.S. EXPORTS - III...USDA economist Clark Edwards talks about the export increase we experienced during the 1970's and what factors may contribute to a reasonable growth rate for the upcoming decades. Vic Powell interviews. (240)

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United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1521...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) One thing economists, secretaries of agriculture and others seem to agree upon is the relationship between the national economy and the health of agriculture. Dave Carter gives us a lesson on agricultural economics.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1510...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Drought continues; 1987 conservation reserve program; California number 1; Crop yields and ozone layer; Drug markets affect U.S. farmers.

CONSUMER TIME #1003...(Weekly reel of news features) Too fat; Homegrown bird calling; The refinancing game; Growing ferns; Parents as backboards.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, July 29, Weekly crop and weather; Thurs, July 31, Agricultural prices; Fri, Aug. 1, Agricultural Resources - machinery & energy; Mon, Aug. 4, Dairy products; Tues, Aug. 5, Weekly crop and weather. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

About the time we were cleaning off our desk to leave for the Summer NAFB meeting, things got busy. We laid aside the clean up plans and instead set up a live feed of a press conference to be held July 24 on the drought situation. We learned again how good it is to have a fast reacting team who can put together one of these special events "almost" as if it were second nature to them. We also expect to hold at least one radio telephone press conference and a television satellite press conference on conservation reserve compliance rules and signups. If you're interested in either of these, let us know ... Buddy Sanders (WMC, Memphis, Tenn) called to report July 26 as the date for the grand opening of the Agricenter International. He said WMC will have permanent remote radio studio facilities at the center and farm broadcasters are welcome to stop by and use them for interviews, phone feeds and other broadcasting activities ... Note and newspaper tearsheet arrived from Rich Hawkins (KRVN, Lexington, Neb). The clipping was from the Denver Post, and Rich came by it because his sister lives in Lakewood, Colo. The lead paragraph in the story said, "Some say J. Evan Slack has more pickup-truck drivers for friends than anybody else in the Rocky Mountain West." And the story goes on to explain why, largely because of Evan's 27 years of talking to farm and ranch folks in Colorado. Our thanks to Rich for sending us the clipping ... Fortunato "Lucky" Teho died July 11 of cancer. He was 77 or 78, depending on which newspaper obituary you read. Our thanks to Layne Beaty (USDA Radio-TV Chief, retired) for sending us clippings from two. Lucky retired in 1977 as Univ of Hawaii radio/TV specialist ... We learned also that Bernie Brenner's wife passed away, July 21. Bernie, for years, was the farm radio voice for United Press International.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2273 July 31, 1986

MORE ACRES FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE

Several million more acres of highly erodible cropland may now be eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program, according to Under Secretary of Agriculture Daniel Amstutz. If a field is eroding at a rate of at least two times the soil-loss tolerance level and that field has a gully problem based on an onsite inspection, then the field is eligible for the program. These fields would not have qualified for the CRP under the previous rules.

LYNG URGES SIGN UP

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng urged farmers to seriously weigh the benefits of participating in the Conservation Reserve Program. Said Lyng, "Before deciding whether to participate in the Conservation Reserve, farmers need to consider two things: The benefits of signing up and the consequences of not signing up." The current signup period is Aug. 4-15. Under the voluntary program, farmers enter into contracts to retire highly erodible cropland for 10 years. In return, the USDA makes annual rental payments to participating farmers and shares half the cost of establishing grass or trees on the land.

WHEAT TO S. AFRICA

South Africa purchased 66,000 tons of U.S. wheat, bringing the total since May to about 156,000 tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is substantially above the 27,000 tons of U.S. wheat exported to S. Africa in 1985/86. The sale was made despite tough competition from Australia, a major supplier of S. African wheat imports. There is a good possibility that S. Africa will purchase additional U.S. wheat. It's currently expected to import about 250,000 tons of wheat in 1986/87.

WHEAT EXPORTS IMPROVING

The forecast for 1986/87 wheat exports, as of July 11, remained unchanged for the third consecutive month at 29 million, 900 thousand tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The forecast is 5 million tons higher than exports in 1985/86, but still well below the record 1981/82 export level of 48 million tons. New wheat sales for the 4-week period ending July 17 were up almost 65 pct. over the previous 4-week period, as new crop wheat became more readily available and several countries made purchases under the Export Enhancement Program.

DROUGHT DISASTER AREAS

Between July 20 and July 30, Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng has designated counties in 3 states as disaster areas. They are: Virginia, 17 primary and 37 contiguous counties; North Carolina, 41 primary and 28 contiguous counties; South Caroline, 39 primary and 5 contiguous counties. In all these counties family farmers may qualify for FmHA emergency loss loan assistance.

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CANADIAN WHEAT EXPORTS

Canadian wheat exports in 1986/87 are estimated at 19 million 5 hundred thousand tons, up 2 million 5 hundred tons from last year, as a result of projected record production. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this and lower export prices due to reduced initial payments could increase competition faced by U.S. wheat in foreign markets. The Canadian Government has already prepared for another aggressive export program by proposing an increase in consumer wheat prices and adjusting other government programs to make Canadian wheat more competitive in world markets.

CANADA INVESTIGATES U.S.

The Canadian Government will begin an investigation of whether or not U.S. corn exports are subsidized, which could lead to a countervailing duty being applied to imported U.S. corn, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Such a duty, which would be the first ever applied by Canada to U.S. grain, could disrupt U.S. corn exports to Canada, but more importantly, could set a precedent for other countries to initiate similar investigations.

MEXICO JOINS GATT

Mexico became the 92nd country to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) when it signed the agreement on July 25, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Until the signing, Mexico was the United States' largest trading partner not in GATT. Mexico's membership will take effect 30 days after signature, in time for Mexico to participate in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations to begin in Uruguay in Sept.

FROM IMPORTER TO EXPORTER

Pakistan, a traditional wheat importing country, appears likely to export wheat in 1986/87, as record supplies from large carryover stocks and another bumper crop create storage problems, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After importing an average of 1 million 3 hundred thousand tons in 1984/85 and 1985/86, an initial export goal of 500,000 tons has been announced for 1986/87, with Iran considered a likely market.

CORN EXPORT FORECAST

The U.S. Department of Agriculture corn export forecast for 1986/87, as of July 11, declined 1 million 900 thousand tons to 39 million 4 hundred thousand tons. The July corn export estimate for 1985/86 also fell 1 million 9 hundred thousand tons to 31 million 1 hundred thousand tons. Larger than expected corn supplies from other origins, increased competition in major Asian and Latin American markets, and continued pressure from subsidized or heavily discounted feed wheat have caused the lower corn estimate.

WEEKLY DAIRY CATTLE SLAUGHTER

An estimated 26,200 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending July 12, 1986, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through July 12 is an estimated 567,900 head. Dairy cattle reported for export under the program for the period April 1 through July 26 totaled an estimated 20,408 head.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

DROUGHT IN SOUTHEAST...Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, Assistant Secretary George Dunlop and USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen focus on the severe drought in the Southeastern U.S. and how it has affected crops and livestock in these areas. Vic Powell interviews. (241)

HOTLINE FOR DROUGHT-STRICKEN FARMERS...The U.S. Department of Agriculture has formed a task force, including a toll-free hotline, to help relieve farmers suffering from drought-related problems. Jim Boillot, deputy assistant secretary for governmental and public affairs and coordinator of that task force, describes how the hotline is meeting the needs of farmers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (242)

CROP PRODUCTION UPDATE...USDA economist Michael Hanthorn takes a look at factors contributing to the current crop production forecast, including price increases for broilers, the supply-demand situation for cotton and projections for wheat, corn and soybean stocks. Vic Powell interviews. (243)

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM...Bob Acord with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, comments on the success of the Animal Damage Control Program and the new direction being taken since its transfer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (244)

RENTAL FARMLAND...Rental farmland is increasing in the U.S. as half of all farmland is rented to farmers by landowners who are not directly involved in agriculture. USDA economist Gene Wunderlich focuses on factors contributing to this situation. George Holmes interviews. (245)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1522...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) It seems that almost every part of the country claims that its particular style of barbeque is the best. George Holmes talks with two gentlemen from Tennessee who both claim to be barbeque "kings."

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1511...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; A sheep referendum; A future heat wave?; Tax reform and agriculture.

CONSUMER TIME #1004...(Weekly reel of news features) Mortgage talk; Home businesses: Coping with failure; New career for a star; Ozone and our food supply; A skin growth stimulant.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Aug. 6, Livestock and poultry outlook; Tues, Aug. 12, U.S. crop production, Soviet crop outlook; World ag. supply and demand, Crop and weather update; Wed, Aug. 13, World crop production; World oilseed situation; World cotton situation; Thurs, Aug. 14, Milk production; Fri, Aug. 15, Cotton and wool outlook; Cattle on feed report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

The NAFB Summer Meeting is history. The final summer meeting, held in Fort Worth, Texas, July 24-27 was fitting to the occasion. Over 150 voting and associate members, non-members and family members were there. The weather cooperated (blue-sky days near or over 100 degrees), no buses broke down and the night out dancing and watching the bull rides at the honky tonk was memorable. Probably more memorable for some than others...including the 12 who rode back to the hotel in one car...not a big one at that. Ask Dave Bonar (WBOC-TV, Salisbury, Maryland) for the details. He was the driver. Roddy Peeples (Voice of SW Agric, San Angelo, Tex) and his program crew did a masterful job of making the last NAFB summer meeting a good 'un ...Scott Dewald is back in school at Oklahoma State University working on his master's degree. He left KKYN, Plainview, Tex, the first of the year to work at KWOX, Woodward, Okla, then switched into the halls of ivy ... "Here's the Latest Edition (Addition)" is the title of an announcement we received from Brian and Barbara Baxter. Brian is co-anchor on the Morning Ag Report, Indianapolis, IN. The "edition" (addition) is Jessica Ann Baxter, born June 30 ... Ed Rider has retired from the American Trucking Assoc. staff, but he hasn't stopped working. He's now an independent consultant ... Nice note from Mike Ramsey (WRFD, Columbus, Ohio). He wrote to thank us for setting up an interview with Sec'y Lyng. That proved to be good all around, because Mike took the opportunity to encourage Sec'y Lyng to continue the telephone press conferences that give 30 farm broadcasters access to USDA newsmakers at the same time ... Final note: At the summer NAFB meeting, it was evident that farm broadcasters were and are the pivotal point around which events turn oftentimes. And the relief for drought-stricken farmers is a prime example. We heard and continue to hear about how farm broadcasters help get donors of hay and other commodities together with transporters. We say, "Allll Rightttttt!!!"

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2274

AUG 26 1986

August 7, 1986

AID FOR DROUGHT-STRICKEN FARMERS

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng on Aug. 1 announced significant new and expanded programs to aid drought-stricken farmers in Southeastern states. Over $1 billion worth of crops--including peanuts and tobacco--in the affected areas is covered under USDA's crop insurance program. Under the Feed Cost-Sharing Program, USDA will share with livestock producers the cost of purchasing feedgrains, including hay. The cost-sharing payments will be made in generic certificates and farmers can convert the certificates into cash or to redeem them for Commodity Credit Corporation commodities. CCC is moving grain from storage facilities in the Midwest to areas in the Southeast where storage is available. Lyng also authorized a nationwide, across-the-board 10 pct. increase in 1986 advance deficiency payments, at a cost of $1 billion.

YUGO. MAY PURCHASE U.S. WHEAT

Heavy rains during harvest have apparently caused substantial deterioration in the quality of Yugoslavia's crop. If problems are severe, Yugoslavia may increase imports of U.S. wheat, despite a new import levy on grain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Yugoslavia announced that wheat imports, including those under USDA's Export Enhancement Program, will be exempt from the levy as long as domestic supplies are insufficient. Yugoslavia is expected to import about 400,000 tons of wheat in 1986/87 - July/June.

SOVIET GRAIN PRODUCTION INCENTIVES

Unusual inducements are being offered to Soviet farms to exceed their grain and pulse production plans, according to a Soviet agricultural newspaper. Reportedly, the State Agro-Industrial Committee will give those farms which over produce the right to purchase additional trucks, tractors, cement, lumber and other hard-to-find materials. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this action must be regarded as an incentive very different from, and possibly more effective than, the usual incentives that take the form of financial bonuses or rewards.

JULY DAIRY PROGRAM SLAUGHTER

During the week ending July 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 24,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants as a result of the Dairy Termination Program. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April through July 19 is an estimated 592,600 head.

United States Department of Agriculture — Office of Information
Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

U.S. AG. TRADE

Cumulative U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-June 1986 totaled $20 billion, 800 million, down $4.7 billion - that's 18 pct. - from the same period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume during the first nine months of fiscal 1986 totaled nearly 85½ million tons, off approximately 17 pct. from just over 103 million tons exported during the first nine months of fiscal 1985. Export commodities experiencing the sharpest year-to-year market declines thus far in fiscal 1986 include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, cotton, soybean oil and sunflowerseeds.

U.S. AG. IMPORTS

U.S. agricultural imports for Oct.-June 1986 came to $15 billion, 900 million, up 5 pct. from the Oct.-June 1985 total, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports for June 1986 totaled $1 billion, 600 million, down 5 pct. from the same month a year earlier and 14 pct. below May 1986. The trend appears to be returning to normal following an upsurge in coffee and fresh tomato imports in May. The overall net surplus of agricultural trade during Oct.-June 1986 amounted to $4 billion, 900 million, down 52 pct. from a new surplus of $10 billion, 300 million during Oct.-June 1985.

OILSEEDS & PRODUCTS

U.S. exports of oilseeds and products reached 1 million 400 thousand tons in June 1986, 30 pct. higher than June 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The value of oilseed and products exports for June was nearly $335½ million, up 10 pct. from last year. U.S. exports of soybeans, soybean meal, and peanuts were all at higher levels for June compared to year-ago levels. Exports of soybeans for the 1985/86 fiscal year to date total $3 billion, the highest value for a single U.S. agricultural commodity.

GRAIN AGREEMENT IN SO. AMER.

Argentina and Brazil signed a new five-year grain agreement under which Brazil will purchase a minimum of nearly 1½ million tons of Argentine wheat the first year and increasing amounts each year thereafter, up to a minimum of 2 million tons in the last year of the agreement, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In light of prospects for another bumper Brazilian wheat crop and a prior Brazilian agreement to purchase a minimum of 750,000 tons of Canadian wheat, U.S. wheat exports, which once comprised 60 pct. of Brazil's imports, could be displaced.

REVISED DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

About 57,000 fewer dairy cattle than indicated earlier will be slaughtered in Aug. as a result of contract modifications under the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A total of 1,116 program participants with contrracts to dispose of their dairy cattle in the first contract disposal period, April 1 - Aug. 31, have modified their contracts opting for a later disposal period.

WHEAT TO RUSSIA

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng made the following statement on Aug. 1: "The President has authorized me to announce that he has decided today to make U.S. wheat available to the Soviet Union at current world market prices in sufficient quantity to fulfill the terms of the U.S./Soviet Long Term Grain Agreement. The unfulfilled portion of the contract calls for the Soviets to purchase 4 million metric tons of U.S. wheat by Sept. 30."

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

WHEAT SALES TO SOVIET UNION...Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng describes how the U.S. plans to use provisions of USDA's Export Enhancement Program to fulfill a contract with the Soviet Union calling for sale of four million metric tons of wheat. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (246)

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM...Dep. Sec'y of Agriculture Peter Myers outlines new and current provisions under the Conservation Reserve Program and talks about the advantages of this program for farmers. Vic Powell interviews. (247)

DROUGHT AID...The USDA has placed into operation a number of intensified efforts to help farmers in the Southeast drought. Earle Bedenbaugh with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service examines these new and expanded programs. Vic Powell interviews. (248)

BEAN CONSUMPTION IN THE U.S....USDA economist Neil Conklin takes a look at the decline in bean consumption in the U.S. and the affect of this decline on producers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (249)

RIDGE TILLAGE...Marcian Hausman, a farmer from Tuscola, Ill., describes how farmers might be able to reduce production costs substantially by switching to a ridge tillage system. Gary Beaumont interviews. (250)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event
United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1523...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Did you know there's wheat for baking bread, another making pastries and still another for making pastries and still another for making pasta? On this edition of Agriculture USA Jim Johnson talks to Warren Kronstad, Oregon State University professor of plant breeding, about the efforts to develop a new bread type wheat for the Pacific Northwest.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1512...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; A sheep referendum; Conservation Reserve; The Chesapeake Bay is being given new life by farmers; Lightning and its dangers.

CONSUMER TIME #1005...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Drought and food prices; Retirement planning; Save the bones; Postponing children; Is a pension enough.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Aug. 19, Weekly weather and crop report; Farm labor report; Agricultural outlook; Wed, Aug. 20, Catfish outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Brent Thompson is leaving Brownfield Network, Centertown, Missouri, as of Aug. 12 to work at KWTO, Springfield, MO. Consequently, Brownfield Net is looking for his replacement. For more information, call Roger Gardner at 314-636-5141. Incidently we got the word of the change from Gary Digiuseppe and at the same time learned that Gary and his wife Mary are new parents (for the first time). The new family member is Andrew born Aug. 3. Our congratulations! ... Bill Liermann is no longer at Agriculture Broadcasting Net in Columbus, Ohio. Valerie Parks is the new staff member at ABN ... Orion Samuelson and Max Armstrong (WGN, Chicago) have a new phone number...and new quarters. WGN Radio moved to the Tribune Tower at 435 N. Michigan Ave. Their new phone number is 312-222-5090 ... Radonna Long left KGNC, Amarillo, Texas, July 30, to pursue a career in media or public relations work. Farm Director at the station Bob Givens has hired Laurey Wright to help him in the farm department ... Many of you know Rex Messersmith, so you'll be interested in this item from KRVN, Lexington, NE. Rex is the new manager of KRVN's sister station KNEB in Scottsbluff, NE. Back aways in his career, Rex was farm director at WNAX, Yankton, No. Dakota ... Richard Carvell, station manager at KASU, Arkansas State Univ., Jonesboro, Ark, reports the station has a new farm broadcaster. She is Karen Jones. KASU's former farm broadcaster Greg Chance is the station's new news director ... Stations receiving our CONSUMER TIME weekly radio tape series will a notice a new feature. Doug Wakefield, who used to be on our radio staff and is now working with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, is producing a weekly feature for the CT series. Each feature will "profile" a country's food buying and eating habits and other interesting bits of information. Knowing Doug, they'll be well produced, so watch for them.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A
Office of Information, OGPA
U.S. Department of Agriculture
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

SEP 8 1986
U. S. GOVT. PUBS.

Letter No. 2275 August 14, 1986

FARMS DOWN 3 PCT.

The number of farms in the U.S. in 1986 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 2 million 210 thousand, down 3 pct. from 1985. The land in farms declined just over 7 million acres from the previous year. The average size of farms increased from 446 acres last year to 455 acres in 1986.

USSR GRAIN PRODUCTION EST. REDUCED

Soviet grain production is estimated at 175 million tons, down 5 million tons from the July estimate. The estimate was lowered because of both area and yield reductions, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn and spring barley yields were reduced this month as a result of dry weather in the Volga Valley, Ukraine, and Black Soils in southern and western Kazakhstan. The 1986 wheat forecast is 76 million metric tons, down from 83 million estimated for 1985. The coarse grain forecast for 1986 is 86 million metric tons, down from 94 million estimated for 1985.

USSR GRAIN IMPORTS UNCERTAIN

On Aug. 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that U.S. wheat would be made available to the Soviet at current world market prices in sufficient quantities to fulfill the terms of the U.S. - USSR Long Term Grain Agreement. The Soviets may buy up to 4 million tons of U.S. wheat by Sept. 30 under this offer. U.S. exporters will be given USDA generic certificates in sufficient quantity to make it possible for them to make U.S. prices competitive. Announcements of CCC bonus levels will be made each Friday after 3 p.m., taking into account world market conditions. Awards will be made for up to 4 million metric tons of wheat on a first-come, first-served basis.

USSR GRAIN BUYING MODEST

Grain purchases by the USSR for delivery in the 1986/87 marketing year continue modest, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. So far, the purchases total only around 5 million tons, not much different from the pace set a year ago. Canada is about the only supplier that is believed to have made significant sales to the USSR. The USSR has apparently shown little interest in either old crop Argentine corn and sorghum or Southern Hemisphere new crop wheat. USSR grain imports for July-June 1986/87 are projected at 36 million tons, up 2 million tons from a month ago and the third largest ever. The estimate of wheat imports is at 19 million tons; of coarse grain, 16 million.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

121.34:

LARGE CORN CROP FORECAST

The first U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast of the 1986 corn for grain crop is set at 8 billion 320 million bushels, 6 pct. below last year's crop but the second largest crop of record. The U.S. average yield per acre is forecast at a record high 120.4 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from the previous record high set last year. The yields per acre in some of the leading states are: Illinois, 142 bushels, up 7 bushels from last year; Indiana, 132 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from last year; Iowa, 135 bushels, up 9 from last year; Minnesota, 122, up 7; Nebraska, 130, up 2; Ohio, 128, up 1; and Wisconsin, 114 bushels per acre, up 7 from last year.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

The projected global output of wheat is slightly above last month, with increases in Canada and Turkey slightly exceeding declines in the European Community and Australia, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Canadian wheat crop, although developing late and vulnerable to early frost damage, is projected at a record level, reflecting a near-record yield and record area. Weather problems, however, may keep the EC crop below last year's level. Competition for global markets remains intense. In addition to competition among the major exporters, nontraditional exporters - India, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia are expected to dispose of surpluses on the world market. Canada's ending stocks are expected to rise in view of limited markets for its larger crop.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

The total U.S. production of all types of wheat is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 2 billion 160 million bushels, down 11 pct. from 1985. The winter wheat production is forecast at 1 billion 530 million bushels, 16 pct. less than last year and 1 pct. less than the July 1 forecast. The yields average 35.4 bushels per acre, 2.7 bushels below a year ago. This would be the lowest winter wheat yield since 1978. Durum wheat production is forecast at 102 million bushels, down 10 pct. from the 1985 production of 113 million bushels. Other spring wheat production for 1986 is forecast at 530 million bushels, the second highest production level of record and 9 pct. above last season's 485 million bushels.

SOYBEAN FORECAST

The soybean production is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 1 billion 98 million bushels, 6 pct. below last year but 5 pct. above 1984. The yield per acre is forecast at 32.9 bushels, but 4.8 bushels above the 1984 average yield. Soybean growing conditions have been mostly good in the Midwest with record high yields expected in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and N. Dakota. Drought conditions in the Southeast have caused farmers to abandon acres of soybeans and have reduced expected yields significantly from last year. August precipitation will be a critical factor in pod development, particularly in the South and Southeast.

GRAIN STORAGE

On August 12, President Reagan announced that grain stored in approved storage facilities or on the ground would be eligible for price support loans. In addition, Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng has previously announced the use of up to 1,000 excess barges as temporary storage facilities to store grain, and relaxed rules governing the movement of grain between locations.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen offers the current weather and crop outlook, including an update on the drought situation in the Southeast and its affect on crops and livestock as well as crop development in the Corn Belt and mid-Western States. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (251)

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY OUTLOOK...Cattle and hog breeding herds are now the lowest since the early 1960's, and large meat supplies are encountering weak demand. USDA economist Leland Southard examines the factors behind the current situation and outlook for livestock and poultry. Vic Powell interviews. (252)

CHINA OUTLOOK...China has changed its agricultural production system, and apparently intends to use its agricultural exports as a source of income. USDA economist Francis Tuan takes a look at how this situation will affect U.S. exports to this country. Vic Powell interviews. (253)

ELDERLY FITNESS...Dr. William Evans with USDA's Human Nutrition Research Service in Boston, talks about studies being conducted to examine the interaction between exercise and the aging process, and how older people respond to increased physical activity. Vic Powell interviews. (254)

AG RESOURCES - FARM MACHINERY...Purchases of new and used farm equipment are expected to decline to between $4.8 and $5.1 billion in 1986. USDA economist Herman Delvo focuses on factors contributing to that decline. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (255)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1524...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Difficult friends; Conflicts with the EC. A group of countries, called the European Community, is raising havoc with U.S. farm exports. On this edition of Agriculture USA, Doug Wakefield and USDA foreign analyst Mary Revelt discuss the situation.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1513...(Weekly reel of news features)...USDA news highlights; Sheep referendum, Acreage limitations on feed grain programs; Cassava: new crop block; Farm population; New crop forecast.

CONSUMER TIME #1006...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Preventing poison ivy; A taste of wine; Older Americans and milk; Arsenic and your health; Parents; Feelings of incompetence.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Aug. 19, Weekly crop and weather, Farm labor, Agricultural outlook; Wed, Aug. 20, Exports, catfish; Fri, Aug. 22, feed. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

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OFF MIKE

The drought (or do you spell it drouth?) brings home once again the important role farm broadcasters play in the world of agriculture. We've received a number of indications of how farm broadcasters have played and continue to play a pivotal role in getting farmers donating commodities together with the distribution system set up to get those commodities to those who need them. Joe Jarvis (WCVL, Crawfordsville, Ind.) had telephones at both ears for nearly 10 days helping arrange for 30 truckloads of hay to be accumulated and delivered to the drought area...as well as helping to collect $4500 to help defray truckers' fuel expenses. Ed Slusarczyk, (Ag Radio Net, Utica, NY) spearheaded a project in his area to get donors and recipients together. Dix Harper (Tobacco Radio Net, Raleigh, No. Car.) teamed with Slusarczyk, Jarvis, Lee Kline and Bob Quinn (WHO, Des Moines, Iowa), Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, Kans), and Neal Anderson (WQAD-TV, Moline, Ill.) for the same purpose...and very successfully, too. And, no doubt, there are many, many more instances we haven't heard about. We did learn by reading Doug Rubush's newsletter (WSVA, Harrisonburg, Virginia) that to date 39 states have donated hay to SE states, so someone must have been helping to get the word out and around. Our congratulations to all involved!! ... Incidentally, if you see Neal Anderson, ask him about his 15-20 minute private conversation with President Reagan at the Illinois State Fair. Neal should be back down to earth now ... Rick Neiman is no longer with Bill Ray's Agrinet Farm Net in Richmond, Virginia. He's working with Ag Way. Kelly Wayne took his place. Incidently, Bill reports he's added 22 stations in Pennsylvania, 4 in Maryland and Delaware and 6 in Virginia for a total of 95 affiliates on his net ... Wade Wagner (KGAN-TV, Cedar Rapids, Iowa) is back from a trip to the Soviet Union (not as part of the NAFB tour, which also is back). It's his second trip there (first one in 1984) and he has a good selection of video footage of Soviet agriculture he'll dicker with you about, if you're interested.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

2276

Farm Broadcasters Letter

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SEP 12 1986

U.S. GOVT. PUBS. DEPOSITORY ITEM

Letter No. 2276 August 21, 1986

EXPORT FORECAST LOWERED

U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1986 are forecast at 26 billion 500 million, down from 31 billion 200 million a year earlier and 1 billion below the May forecast, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The volume of U.S. agricultural exports is projected at 108 million metric tons, 14 pct. below fiscal 1985. The decrease reflects delayed purchases by major importers in anticipation of lower commodity prices this fall as the new 1986/87 loan rates take effect. The volume decline also reflects a drop in Soviet grain imports from the record levels of a year earlier, plus continued large foreign production, intense foreign competition, and financial constraints in many developing countries.

TRADE BALANCE-6 BILLION

Fiscal 1986 farm imports are estimated at $20 billion 500 million, up $700 million from fiscal 1985, due largely to higher coffee prices. The resulting trade balance is placed at 6 billion dollars, the the lowest since 1972, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

U.S. EXPORT VOLUME FOR 1987

The U.S. export volume is expected to rise substantially in fiscal 1987, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Increases will be spurred by sharp declines in export prices, reflecting reduced loan rates for many major bulk commodities. A weaker U.S. dollar in foreign exchange markets should also strengthen the U.S. competitive position and expand export sales. In addition, the Export Enhancement Program announced for a broad range of commodities should benefit U.S. trade.

JAPAN TOP U.S. FARM MARKET

Japan will will remain the leading single-country market for U.S. agricultural exports in Fiscal 1986, as it has been every year since 1963, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. agricultural sales to Japan peaked in fiscal 1984 at 6 billion 900 million, fell to 5 billion 700 million in 1985, and are forecast to drop to under 5 billion in fiscal 1986. Depressed commodity prices and declining U.S. share in key markets are behind the decline. As U.S. grain and cotton prices become more competitive under new farm legislation, the U.S. is expected to regain a more normal share of Japan's corn and cotton imports.

DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 525,900 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Aug.2, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

WHEAT POLL RESULTS

Among the results of the mandatory wheat production poll conducted by the U.S. department of Agriculture were these:

* Some 78 pct. of those eligible to vote declined to participate.
* Of the 1,565,517 ballots mailed to wheat producers, 346,034 were returned. Of those, 26,626 were invalid.
* The remaining 20 pct. - 319,408 - were valid. Of those, 171,389 or 54 pct., favored mandatory production controls; 148,019 or 46 pct. opposed them.

Approximately 16,000 ballots were rejected at county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices because producers failed to follow instructions for placing the ballots in the proper envelopes or because they enclosed more than one ballot in the envelopes. Some 10,000 ballots were rejected at the ASCS Kansas City management office, where all ballots were sent for tabulation. The vast majority of these were disqualified because producers failed to answer the first question, which asked "Do you favor mandatory limits on production?"

ACRES IN RESERVE

The Conservation Reserve Program has enrollment goals of 5 million acres during the 1986 crop year and 40 to 45 million acres by 1990, but only 3 million 800 thousand acres were signed up in March and May. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, enrollment in the reserve will likely accelerate during subsequent signups as farmers become better informed about the program and the range of bids acceptable. Experience with the Soil Bank Program of the 1950's suggests that the Conservation Reserve Program goal of 40 to 45 million acres can be met. (For more information, call Terry Townsend or Herb Moses at 202-786-3313.)

FARM CASH FLOW

In 1985, over 55 pct. of all farms had positive cash flows, compared with 49 pct. in 1984, according to the U.S. department of Agriculture. However, farms with debt/asset ratios greater than four-tenths of one percent increased from 19 pct. of all farms in 1984 to 21 pct. in 1985. Nearly 40 pct. of all farms were debt-free on Jan. 1, 1986, and another 39 pct. had debt/asset ratios below four-tenths of one percent.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed on Aug. 1, 1986, for the slaughter market market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6 million 320 thousand head, down 1 pct. from a year ago and 7 pct. below Aug. 1, 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1 million 680 thousand, an increase of 1 pct. from last year, 8 pct. above July 1984 and the highest July total since 7 state estimates were begun in 1972.

FARM INCOME

The net cash income for the farm sector in 1986 is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at $43 to $47 billion, which means little if any change from the record-high $44 billion in 1985. Direct payments to the farm sector will total a record 10 to 13 billion dollars in 1986, and net Commodity Credit Corporation loans will add another 8 to 12 billion dollars. The 5 to 7 pct. decline in 1986 farm production expenses will lower cash expenses to the 1980 level.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

AG. RESOURCES - ENERGY, FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES...Farm energy expenditures are expected to be down one billion this year, because of lower oil prices and reduced crop plantings. USDA economist Herman Delvo focuses on reasons behind this situation. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (256)

COTTON AND WOOD OUTLOOK...U.S. textile use of cotton is the highest this decade, even though imports of cotton textiles have reached a new record. USDA economist Sam Evans examines the factors behind the increased use of cotton. Vic Powell interviews. (257)

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Net cash income for the farm sector in 1986 if forecast at $43 to $47 billion, little changed from the record-high $44 billion in 1985. USDA economist Herb Moses talks about these and other factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (258)

CALCIUM SUPPLEMENT STUDY...USDA research scientist Dr. Bess Dawson-Hughes focuses on research work being conducted at the USDA Human Nutrition Center in Boston to determine the effect of calcium supplements. Vic Powell interviews. (259)

CALCIUM-AND IRON...USDA research scientist Dr. Bess Dawson-Hughs continues her discussion on studies being conducted at the Human Nutrition Research Center in Boston, focusing on osteoporosis, calcium and iron. Vic Powell interviews. (260)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1525..(Weekly 13 min documentary) Wayne Rasmussen has retired from his post as Agricultural Historian at the Dept. of Agriculture. He has served as historian from the FDR administration to the present. George Holmes talks with Dr. Rasmussen - as the historian frankly gives his views on each Agriculture Secretary since 1944.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1514...(Weekly reel of news features)...USDA news highlights; Storage problems force expansion of price support loan program; The search for more grain storage space; Farm equipment slump; more bad news for farm exports.

CONSUMER TIME #1007...(Weekly reel of 2-3 min features) Trace elements important to health; your brain chemistry may supply clue to better insect control; The at-home business boom; A "bonsai" of a garden; selling things to the Soviets.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, 27th Aug., Fruit Outlook; Fri., Aug. 29, Agricultural Prices; Wed., Sept. 3, Wheat Outlook, Crop and Weather Update; Thurs., Sept. 11, U.S. Crop Production, World Crop Supply and Demand, Soviet Crop Production. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Jack McConnell is back at KMMJ, Grand Island, Neb, replacing Ron Bahe. Jack left KNOX, Grand Forks, No.Dak on August 22. Consequently, KNOX is looking for someone to take over the farm broadcasting duties. If you're interested, call Bob Scott at KNOX, 701-775-4611 ... We learned of Jack's move from a couple sources, including from Bob Baker (KOEL, Oelwein, Iowa). And while talking with Bob on the phone, we learned he was another of the farm broadcasters who played a pivotal role in getting help for drought-stricken farmers in the Southeast. His project involved 12 box cars of hay and getting donations and volunteers to get it loaded and delivered ... Farm broadcasters are busy people, especially this time of year. In fact, we would bet that many of you won't even read this for a couple weeks. But there is busy and there is busier. We were talking with Evan Slack (Evan Slack Network, Denver, Colo) on the phone a couple days back and he was telling us of his Saturday, August 18. He spoke at the Ag Relations Council meeting in Breckenridge north of Denver in the morning, flew 220 miles to Lamar for an event and to meet with an affiliate, then on to Sterling (same purpose) and finally to Longmont (also same purpose). He said he didn't get up until 7:02 a.m. because of a late evening the night before at a banquet but managed to get home by 9:30 p.m. What will it be like if he gets a jet? ... Cheri Philips writes to let us know she is looking for a communications job. She's an Extension agent at present in Indiana and has both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Purdue University. Her phone number is 317-884-1358 ... Holly Downing, new with the Indiana Agri-Business Net, recently proved she's an old hand at cooking. She won the 1986 Hoosier Ribeye Beef Cook-off held in Indianapolis, Aug 7 ... Speaking of winning, we've learned that Gordon Webb, Cornell University Media Services, won the New York State Broadcasters Association award for outstanding public service announcements for a small market station. Nice going, Gordon.

Jim Johnson

James L. Johnson, Chief, Radio and Television Services

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2277 August 28, 1986

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OCT 3 1986

U. S. GOVT. PUBS. DEPOSITORY

LARGE FEED GRAIN CROP

Although the 1986 feed grain program helped to hold plantings to 120 acres, the U.S. feed grain crop is forecast at 254 million metric tons, down 7 pct. from--and second only to--last year's record harvest, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn is forecast to supply about 83 pct., or 8 billion 300 million bushels, of the expected total, while about 9 pct., or 850 million bushels, is sorghum. Following record production in 1984 and an excellent harvest in 1985, this year's barley crop is forecast to reach a new high of 650 million bushels.

WORLD COARSE GRAIN PRODUCTION

The world coarse grain production in 1986/87 is forecast at 821 million tons, down about 23 million from a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Foreign production likely will fall about 3 million tons, with an 8-million-ton drop in the USSR. Total foreign output is nonetheless projected near the 1984/85 record of 571 million. Among major foreign export competitors--Argentina, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and Thailand, production is forecast to fall about 1 million tons to 64 million.

HARVEST IN USSR

The grain harvest in USSR is half completed, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Soviet press reports small grains and pulses had been cut on 58 million hectares (145 million acres), or 53 pct. of the area, as of Aug. 18. Threshing had been carried out on 54 million 200 thousand hectares (125½ million acres) or 93.4 pct. of the area cut. This percentage of threshing is the highest since at least 1982.

COARSE GRAIN TRADE TO EXPAND

Aided by improving economic conditions, reduced energy prices, and lower grain prices, global coarse grain trade is forecast to expand to over 90 million tons in 1986/87, up almost 7 million 500 thousand from the previous year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This expanded trade excludes trade within the European Community. The U.S. market share may rise to 52 pct. from 43 pct. a year earlier. Export movement in 1985/86 was the lowest of the last 10 years, and the U.S. share of trade declined dramatically. Most signs for 1986/87 indicate improved demand for U.S. grain.

THANKSGIVING IS COMING

The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast of the 1986 U.S. cranberry crop is for 3 million 590 thousand barrels, up 2 pct. from the 1985 and 8 pct. more than the 1984 crop. The average price per barrel in 1985 increased 20 cents to $54.60.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

MORE COARSE GRAINS TO EC?

The European Community's demand for imported coarse grains may be higher in 1986/87 because of sharply lower corn supplies, particularly in France. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the EC corn crop is forecast to be 1 million 600 thousand metric tons less than last year due primarily to a 1 million 400 thousand ton reduction in the French crop. The French shortfall could be covered by non-EC feed grain imports such as U.S. corn or surplus EC feed wheat and barley.

PASTA WAR ENDS

On August 21, the United States and the European Community implemented the first stage of the recently signed citrus agreement by withdrawing their retaliatory actions on pasta, lemons and walnuts. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. duty on pasta with egg dropped from 25 pct., to 0.25., and the duty on pasta without egg was lowered from 40 pct. to 0.5 pct. The EC duty on U.S. lemons and walnuts was cut from 20 pct. and 30 pct. to 8 pct.

BALLOON PAYMENTS IN BUYDOWN PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued new regulations to encourage commercial lenders to make more loans available to farmers while giving them easier repayment terms. The regulation permits lenders to use balloon installments when they make loans guaranteed by FmHA under the interest buydown program. A loan with a balloon installment lets borrowers make regular, usually smaller, payments over the life of a loan with a large amount--a balloon--remaining to be paid at the end of the repayment period. For details, check the local Farmers Home Admin. office.

INTEREST RATES HELP INCOME CLIMB IN '85

Interest rates fell enough to lower debt service costs and help net cash farm income climb 12 pct. to $44 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, net farm income, an approximate measure of the net value of agricultural production, slipped 7 pct. from 1984's record level to $30 billion 500 million. More than 85 pct. of farm operator households received income from sources other than their farm in 1985. Off-farm incomes of farm operator households increased 8 pct. to $40.8 billion.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS - OVERALL

The total farm output increased 6 pct. in 1985 led by record feed grain production primarily due to record-setting corn yields, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most farmers paid less to produce their goods and earned greater net cash income than in 1984. Cash expenses to produce farm goods declined more than $5 billion. Many also saw shrinking equity, as the value of their real estate continued to decline. Export value and volume of agricultural goods also declined, cutting earnings. Commercial-size operations with annual sales of at least $40,000 increasingly saw their debt outpace assets, perhaps because of unusually heavy reliance on Commodity Credit Corporation loans late in 1985.

DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

An estimated 21,900 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in Federally-inspected plants during the week ending Aug. 9, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Aug. 9 is an estimated 664,900 head.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT OUTLOOK FOR U.S. EXPORTS...U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal year 1986 are forecast at $26 billion, down nearly $5 billion from last year. USDA economist Steve MacDonald examines the situation and outlook for U.S. exports. Vic Powell interviews. (261)

FEED OUTLOOK...U.S. feed grain forecasts indicate that while weather for good growing conditions was unevenly distributed across the U.S., production for the nation as a whole will be high. USDA economist David Hull talks about the current situation and outlook for feed grains. Vic Powell interviews. (262)

SUN AND AGING...Dr. Barbara Gilchrest with USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center in Boston, focuses on research work being conducted to study the effects of sun on the aging process. Vic Powell interviews. (263)

AGING NUTRITION...Dr. Barbara Gilchrest with USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center in Boston, talks about aging and the role of nutrition and cell growth in the aging process. Vic Powell interviews. (264)

ARS RESEARCH REPORTS...USDA research scientists are experimenting with methods and new technologies to help monitor and keep track of animals and livestock; and exploring a new high-fiber food product using treated plant materials for use in other foods. Will Pemble reports. (265)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1526...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Gary Crawford presents the opinions of experts on the effects of tax reform with special emphasis on the effects on the agricultural industry.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1515...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Speeding up loan processing on warehouse stored grain; Tax reform and farmers; A controversial ethanol study; Conservation reserve results.

CONSUMER TIME #1008...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Preparing a fall garden; A growing mariculture industry; Recipes needed for unknown fish; Popular foods made from obscure fish; An American model home in Tokyo.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Sept. 3, Wheat outlook; Thurs, Sept. 4, Dairy product output; Tues, Sept. 9, Crop and weather update; Thurs, Sept. 11, U.S. crop production forecast, USSR grain outlook, World ag. supply and demand; Mon, Sept. 15, Milk production, Cattle on feed.

OFF MIKE

Bob Zank (Ag News Net, Neillsville, WI) reports they will be moving (or have already). New facilities were built in nearby Black River Falls, and the first broadcast from there was scheduled for Sept. 1. The new address is 216 Main St. (PO Box 97), telephone 715-284-9200 ... "Lightning fried it" is the way Cindy Zimmerman described the effects of a lightning strike on their control board at the Independent Florida Agrinet in Ocala. The network has a 1500-foot hard wire connection between the studio and their satellite uplink. The wire and uplink weren't damaged but the board suffered. (Comment for coffee conversations..."Ocala, Florida, is the lightning capitol of the country," and we're quoting Cindy on that) ... Iowa State Univ has a 1-1/2 day Ag Journalism Conference set for Sept. 19-20, and the theme is "The Farm Beat Today." Notables on the program include Dick Lee, (director Extension Info, Univ of Missouri); Jerry Passer (WMT, Cedar Rapids, Iowa); Jerry Bretey (Gen Mgr, KGLO/KNIQ, Mason City, Iowa); and Craighton Knau (KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa) ... Speaking of lecturing and things like that, we learn that Doug Thomas (Southern States Net, Baton Rouge, Louisiana), will be teaching an evening class in agricultural communications at the Manship School of Journalism this fall ... Jack Towers, (retired head of USDA Radio) is well-recognized as an expert in restoring old recordings. Now we learn he is a consultant on a project to put on digital tape the most complete Benny Goodman record collection in the world, owned by a Goodman friend living in Bangkok. Jack may be traveling to Bangkok as part of the project ... Lynn Ketelsen (Linder Farm Net, Willmar, MN) spent four days in mid-August in the Steamboat Springs, Colorado, area on the American Sheep Producers Council Lamb Tour. Lynn was the farm broadcaster chosen to join the diverified group of media and industry people on the tour.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2278 Sept. 4, 1986

SOYBEANS - PRELIMINARY RATE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Aug. 29 issued a preliminary loan and purchase rate for 1986-crop soybeans of $4.77 per bushel. The final 1986 soybean loan and purchase rate will be issued no later than Oct. 1. Soybeans are ineligible for any reserve program or farm storage payments. (A regulatory impact statement on the 1986 soybean program is available from: Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA-ASCS, Room 3741-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Or call Robert Feist, 202/447-6789.)

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHEAT

In an apparent response to the Export Enhancement Program initiative for the Soviet Union, the European Community announced a program to make 850,000 tons of wheat available for export from Sept. through Dec., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any export sales from this block of wheat stocks would depend mainly upon competitive pricing, but if made, would likely displace U.S. wheat.

CHINA FROM CORN IMPORTER TO EXPORTER

China, previously a net corn importer, has become a major corn supplier in the past few years, with expected exports of about 5 million 500 thousand tons in 1985/86. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, China has changed to a major exporter because of a substantial increase in corn production in the northern provinces, the need to generate foreign exchange, and inadequate transportation links to large southern domestic markets. China exports mainly to the Soviet and Japan, and has clearly targeted these countries as primary markets for its surplus corn.

WHEAT EXPORT FORECAST

The U.S. Department of Agriculture wheat export forecast for 1986/87 was increased as of Aug. 12 from 29 million 900 thousand tons to 31 million 300 thousand tons, as a result of some projected increase in world import demand and increased competitiveness of U.S. wheat in world markets. During the 5-week period ending Aug. 21, U.S. wheat shipments were up about 40 pct. over the previous 5-week period and almost 30 pct. higher than last year's cumulative pace. New sales for the period were 2 million 900 thousand metric tons, an almost 4 pct. increase over the previous 5-week period.

MORE ACRES IN CONSERVATION RESERVE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has accepted just over 5 million acres of highly erodible cropland into the Conservation reserve Program, according to Dep. Sec'y of Agriculture Peter Myers. Myers said, "We now have almost 9 million acres total from three signups. Our 5-year goal is to remove 40-45 million acres of highly erodible cropland from production for 10 years."

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A21.34:

WHEAT AT WORLD MARKET PRICES

U.S. wheat sales are being assisted by the Export Enhancement Program, and the largest new initiative so far is the one recently announced for the USSR. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that U.S. wheat would be made available to the Soviet at current world market prices in sufficient quantities to fulfill the terms of the U.S.-USSR Long Term Grain Agreement. The Soviets may buy up to 4 million tons of U.S. wheat by Sept. 30 under this offer. U.S. exporters will be given USDA generic certificates in sufficient quantity to make it possible for them to make U.S. prices competitive.

WHEAT PRICES FAVORABLE FOR WHEAT EXPORTS

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the outlook for wheat use is more favorable this season because of the lowest prices in 8 years. U.S. exports are expected to rise 25 pct. from 1985/86. The Export Enhancement Program and other credit programs will make U.S. wheat more competitive in world markets, likely raising total shipments to near 1 billion 150 million bushels. Lower wheat prices, induced by a drop in the loan rate from $3.30 to $2.40 a bushel, should also raise domestic use to slightly above 1985/86 volume. Nevertheless, total disappearance during 1986/87 may about equal 1986 production, again leaving large carryover stocks.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION SECOND LARGEST

The global wheat production for 1986 is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 506 million tons, the second largest on record, despite smaller crops in the U.S. and USSR. China will remain the largest producer. Offsetting the large supplies is the prospect that use will reach a record 506 million tons, leaving global stocks about equal to 1985/86's record high. World trade is expected to rise, mainly reflecting larger imports by the USSR.

LOWERED 1986 U.S. WHEAT CROP

Eighty-four percent of the wheat growers participated in the 1986 wheat acreage reduction program. This, combined with less-than-ideal weather in winter wheat areas, lowered the 1986 U.S. wheat harvest to a 6-year low of 2 billion 160 million bushels, 11 pct. less than in 1985. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, despite the smaller harvest, a record 4 billion 70 million bushels are available for the 1986/87 marketing year. Increased carryin stocks and the expected record Hard Red Spring crop will overshadow reduced hard Red Winter output, resulting in a bread wheat supply of 3 billion 30 million bushels, an all time high.

CORN & SORGHUM EXPORT

The 1986/87 U.S. corn and sorghum export forecasts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as of Aug. 12 remained unchanged from last month at 39 million 400 thousand tons for corn and 6 million 100 thousands tons for sorghum. The corn and sorghum estimates for 1985/86 also remained unchanged at 31 million 100 thousand tons for corn and 4 million 400 thousand tons for sorghum. Corn shipments for the 5-week period ending Aug. 21 were 8 pct. below the total of the previous 5-week period. Corn sales were 2 million 700 thousand metric tons, and still lag behind last year's cumulative pace by 35 pct.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE...Weather patterns across the U.S. had their ups and downs this year. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen offers the latest crop and weather update. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (266)

ETHANOL AND AGRICULTURE...A report on the impact of ethanol on the agricultural industry was recently produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gerald Grinnell with USDA's Office of Energgy talks about this report and its findings. Vic Powell interviews. (267)

SOVIET AGRICULTURE...The slow growth and rapidly rising costs of production in Soviet agriculture during the 1970's prompted the USSR to establish, in 1982, a food program. USDA economist Robert Koopman examines this program. Vic Powell interviews. (268)

CALCIUM RESEARCH...Dr. Beth Dawson-Hughes, of USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center in Boston, talks about calcium in the diet, and the importance of maintaining a well balanced diet for health and fitness. Vic Powell interviews. (269)

FEED SAMPLING ON LIVESTOCK FARMS...A simple and inexpensive feed sampling program on livestock farms could be a good insurance policy against problems that often develop due to feed contamination. Val Beasley with the University of Illinois focuses on this problem. Gary Beaumont interviews. (270)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1527...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The U.S. wheat industry has been sick. To put it simply, there's too much wheat selling for low prices at home, and not selling much overseas. In this edition of Agriculture USA, Dave Carter talks with government and private analysts about how the wheat industry got into trouble, and how exports and acreage controls may make it healthy again.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1516...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; U.S. farm trade deficit; The Soviet market.

CONSUMER TIME #1009...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Measuring body fat; Pet peeves of nutritionists; One man's meat???; Gardening the "bonsai" way; Is a home business for you.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Sept. 16, Tobacco report, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, Sept. 17, Dairy report; Thurs, Sept. 18, Agricultural outlook report; Fri, Sept. 19, Sugar & sweetener and citrus fruits reports; Mon, Sept. 22, Vegetable, Hogs & pigs, Livestock slaughter reports. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

We had our offices painted last Friday. It was 10 years since the last painting. It may be another 10 years before the next...by choice. What a mess! A crew of movers arrived late Thursday and shoved (good word) everything into the center of each office (we have a three-office suite). The next morning the painters arrived. They were quite efficient and were finished by mid-afternoon. But the middle-of-the-rooms piles of furniture, word processors, printers, etc. remained until Tuesday. We rescued our coffee maker from out of the mess, so Friday was bearable...but barely. At least the walls look better ... Two new newsletters hit our desk this week, one brand new and one not (but we hadn't seen before). The brand new one is Gary Truitt's "The Bottom Line" for the Indiana Agri-Business Network out of Indianapolis. Earlier we had reported that Gary's new co-worker Holly Downing had won a ribeye cookout contest, and the newsletter confirmed it...with picture, no less. The other newsletter is "Sunrise," for the Morning Agriculture Report hosted by Brian Baxter and Wayne Jenkins, also out of Indianapolis ... We've been getting more and more inquiries about how to get USDA reports, news releases, etc., electronically. If you have a computer with a modem hooked into a telephone line, you can set yourself up. With your own electronic mailbox, you can exchange messages with other farm broadcasters with mailboxes, land grant universities, and USDA. And you can access USDA's radio service's daily listing of news stories available, news releases, crop reports, outlook and situation summaries, the White House news service, and other government agencies. For more information, contact Lizz Durante at 202-488-0550. She's the sales rep for Dialcom, Inc., which provides the computer time-share system. She can tell you costs factors, how to hook up, etc. When you get your electronic mailbox number, be sure to let us know.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2279

Sept. 11, 1986

SEC'Y LYNG TO GATT TRADE TALKS

Officials and trade representatives from 92 countries began meeting Sept. 15 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, to establish the agenda for the 8th round of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Heading the U.S. delegation is Clayton Yeutter, the U.S. Trade Representative. Representing U.S. agriculture is Sec'y Richard Lyng. The goal of the Agricultural representatives is to make sure agricultural trade issues are included on the agenda, particularly such key issues as market access and competition, and specifically the use of export subsidies.

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CHINA'S SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

China's soybean production for 1986 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 11 million tons, down from an earlier estimate of 11 million 500 thousand tons. The State Statistical Bureau of China officially estimated last year's soybean crop at 10 million 500 thousand tons.

MALAYSIAN SOYBEAN IMPORTS

Malaysian imports of soybeans increased by 57 pct. during Oct. 1985 through May 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. China captured half of these soybean sales, while the U.S. share was reduced from about 70 pct. in 1983 to the present 8 pct. USDA estimates Malaysian imports of soybeans for 1985/86 at 200,000 metric tons.

THUNDER AT THUNDER BAY

Canadian grain handlers walked off the job over a salary dispute at Thunder Bay, a major Canadian grain loading facility. A significant quantity of grain is currently in the terminal. A short strike should have only a minimal effect on grain exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, a long walkout could substantially disrupt Canadian grain shipments.

ARGENTINA CULLS CATTLE HERDS

Beef production in Argentina for 1986 is projected to fall about 40,000 tons to 2 million 700 thousand tons and fall another 50,000 tons next year due to the drop in slaughter cattle numbers. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Argentina is continuing to cull cattle herds. Cattle numbers are projected to fall about 2 pct. this year to 56 million 500 thousand head, and further declines are expected next year. The decline is caused by weak export prospects and heavy debt and tax burdens.

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A21.34:

EC BEEF TO BRAZIL

The European Community Commission has decided to make another sale of beef to Brazil of reportedly 100,000 tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the second large sale authorized for Brazil in 1986. The previous sale was also for 100,000 tons. The U.S. has an agreement with Brazil to sell 90,000 tons of beef, made available as a result of the dairy herd termination program. The EC sale should not have a direct impact on U.S. exports. However, it will serve to further weaken the already low international price for beef.

SOVIET AGRICULTURE STILL SLUGGISH

The Soviet Food Program, adopted in 1982, has not come close to achieving its ambitious aims. Midway through the Program, the Soviets are still not meeting their targets for increased food production. Grain production during the 11th Five-Year Plan, from 1981 to 1985, fell below output of the two preceding Five-Year Plans. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, what the Soviets may need is an entire overhaul or a new model built on market-based incentives, like the one that's spurred agricultural production in China. In the USSR, meaningful labor incentives are nearly nonexistent because quality consumer goods are in short supply and worker incomes tend to be equal despite differences in ability and effort.

EXPANDED HOURS FOR SOME MEAT & POULTRY PLANTS

Effective Oct. 14, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will allow qualified meat and poultry processing plants operating under the Total Quality Control inspection system to expand hours of operations from eight to a maximum of 12 hours. Meat and poultry plants under the voluntary Total Quality Control inspection system use USDA-approved quality control systems to ensure wholesome and accurately labeled products. Approximately 500 plants are approved to operate under this system.

SLOWLY BUT SURELY

The farm sector is making the necessary adjustments to position itself for modest gains in the late 1980's and beyond, according to economists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The analysts recognize that the consequences of agriculture's financial stress are not over--that some farmers who held on through the last few years will be squeezed out in the next few, and that depressed rural communities cannot expect a quick recovery. However, they agree that a major portion of the underlying adjustments seem to have already been made. These include lower production costs and land values, a reduction in the sector's debt burden, more favorable dollar exchange rates on world markets and the implementation of policies designed to improve the competitiveness of U.S. export commodities.

FARMS FROM 1959 - 1982

Farm production became more specialized from 1959 to 1982, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some findings include: In 1959, 34 pct. of crop farms were cash grain farms; by 1982 that number had dropped to 26 pct ... Tobacco farm numbers dropped by 63 pct. with the largest decrease in farms with sales less than $10,000 ... For general crop farms, crop cash receipts as a percentage of all cash receipts rose from 65 pct. in 1959 to 81 pct. in 1982 ... Only 8 pct. of general crop farms had sales of more than $100,000, but these large farms accounted for 64 pct. of total cash receipts for general crop farms.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT WHEAT OUTLOOK...Although the 1986 wheat harvest was smaller, it added significantly to existing supplies. A record 4 billion bushels are available for the 1986/87 marketing year. USDA economist Allen Schienbein examines the current situation and outlook for wheat. Vic Powell interviews. (271)

1985 U.S. FARM POPULATION...Approximately 5.5 million people lived on U.S. farms in 1985, down seven percent from 5.8 million in 1984. USDA economist Judith Kalbacher focuses on factors contributing to the current outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (272)

SHEEP MARKETING...Direct marketing is a popular practice used by farmers to sell their goods directly to the consumer. Katherine Tyler, a farmer from Baltimore County, Maryland, talks with "Farm Day's" Marilyn Maguire about her success in direct marketing. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (273)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...Agricultural research scientists are developing new varieties of lettuce through the Lettuce Germplasm Collection in Salinas, California; and studying a new range improvement machine to improve surface conditions on valuable farmland in Miles City, Montana. Will Pemble reports. (274)

EXERCISE PERFORMANCE...USDA scientist Dr. William Evans talks about research at the Human Nutrition Research Center in Boston to study the affects of exercise on the elderly. Vic Powell interviews. (275)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event
United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1528...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition Brenda Curtis visits the National Bonsai Collection at the National Arboretum and finds out some interesting facts about the ancient art of Bonsai gardening.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1517...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Farm finances update; Farming near the Chesapeake Bay; Mariculture-A new industry.

CONSUMER TIME #1010...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) New methods to measure body fat; Starting a home business; Fish--a healthy food; New Zealand venison to the U.S.?; Vitamins, minerals and their interaction.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Sept. 23, World ag. outlook; Weekly weather and crop report; Wed, Sept. 23, Agricultural resources--cropland, water and conservation report; Fri, Sept. 26, Economic indicators of the farm sector. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Not one, not two, not three, but four softball games, all played back-to-back between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., that's what Roger Bernard (KROC, Rochester, Minn.) got involved in recently. It was all part of a media softball tournament played in Mason City, Iowa, involving radio, television and cable service employees in the northern Iowa/southern Minnesota area. Roger's comment, "We drove the 100 miles to Mason City, played the four games, and drove back. Long day!" Yes, we would agree ... Speaking of marathons (or at least something closely akin), Herb Plambeck, past NAFB president, on August 27 celebrated his 50th anniversary of his first farm broadcast. His first broadcast was on WHO, Des Moines, in 1936 and those broadcasts lasted for 33-1/2 years. He also spent time in Washington as a confidential assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture...plus lots more. (Herb says he's started his second 50 years in radio but doesn't want to be committed to finishing them.) Our congratulations! ... Stu Ellis (WSOY, Decatur, Ill.) has been selected for the two-year Illinois Leadership Development program. Nice going, Stu. And our thanks to Julie Terstriep (WLRB, Macomb, Ill.) for the tip ... We're holding our breath that our latest project will succeed. Sec'y of Agric Richard Lyng is in Uruguay for the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) talks (week of Sept. 15). We're hoping to conduct a telephone press conference with him and Clayton Yeutter, Ambassador for Trade (and, even possibly, Malcolm Baldrige, Sec'y of Commerce) toward the end of the week, potentially Thursday morning, maybe Friday morning. Phone line quality is the key. We won't set this up until Wednesday, so if you read this before mid-morning that day and would like to participate, call us at 202-447-4330 and we'll put you on. But don't delay. The limited slots will go fast ... Final note. Our thanks to Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, Kans.) for his one word evaluation for a recent NEWS FEATURE FIVE tape. That word? "Exceptional!"

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2280

OCT 14 1986

Sept. 18, 1986

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

The world wheat prices continued downward in Aug., led by a $30-per-ton decline in posted Canadian prices as new-crop wheat became available, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Contributing to the downward trend is the lack of Soviet buying and the improved prospects for even larger exporter wheat supplies. The lack of Soviet buying may reflect expectations for lower prices, reduced hard currency availabilities, changes in the Soviet purchasing contracts, and temporarily reduced demand because of a bumper forage crop. The 1986/87 world wheat trade forecast is 91 million 400 thousand tons, 6 million tons higher than in 1985/86.

EASTERN EUROPE WHEAT CROP

The wheat crops in Hungary and Yugoslavia have been severely damaged by drought. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, yields are forecast 10-15 pct. below last year. The decline will likely mean increased demand for imported wheat, particularly inexpensive feed wheat which may be used in place of domestic coarse grains. The domestic coarse grains could then be exported to generate foreign currency. The reduced wheat supplies may also limit exports which is reflected in a 200,000 ton reduction in the 1986/87 East European export forecast to 2 million 200 thousand tons.

COMPETITOR WHEAT EXPORTS

The 1986/87 wheat export forecasts for Canada, Australia and Argentina total 38 million 600 thousand tons, which is unchanged from last month and nearly equal to 1985/86. In 1985/86, because of an increase in total trade and the expected effect of price competitive U.S. wheat, this level will account for only 42 pct. of world trade. The Canadian 1986 crop is forecast a record 31 million tons. The Canadian wheat export forecast is 19 million 500 thousand tons.

DAIRY PRICES RISE

Wholesale prices of dairy products and farm milk prices have risen significantly since late spring, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The increases were triggered by production declines, continued growth in commercial use, and low commercial stocks. Production is likely to run 2-4 pct. below a year earlier because of the Dairy Termination Program. The surplus next year is expected to be moderate--probably the smallest since 1979.

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A21.34:

U.S. COARSE GRAIN EXPORT FORECAST

The 1986/87 coarse grain export forecast is 46 million 800 thousand tons, unchanged from last month. Increased Chinese supplies were offset by lower expectations in Argentina, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Increased export opportunities in the European Community should help to offset lower demand in a number of smaller countries expecting better crops. Corn sales in the first week of the new marketing year, which started Sept. 1, exceeded 800,000 tons, the highest weekly level since mid-Jan. 1986. Major buyers included Japan, Taiwan, and Korea; markets where U.S. corn exports have been displaced by foreign corn throughout much of 1985/86.

USSR BUYING FROM NOBODY?

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it does not appear that any of the major grain suppliers have sold wheat or coarse grains to the USSR since the few stricter contract terms were announced. Recent reports indicate that Canada may have sold the USSR significant quantities of wheat and barley for shipment during the first half of the Aug.-July 1986/87 agreement year. However, it may be these sales were made under the old contract terms. Despite the U.S. offer to include the USSR in the Export Enhancement Program for up to 4 million tons of wheat by Sept. 30, no business has yet been reported. The last U.S. corn sold to the USSR was shipped in June and no sales are currently outstanding.

USSR IMPORT EST. FOR 1985/86 REVISED

The estimate of total grain imports by the Soviet was increased to 29 million 500 thousand tons, up 500,000 from a month ago. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recent data on major exporter shipments to the USSR indicates that wheat shipments fell somewhat short of the projected 16 million tons. The European Community continued to be the largest seller of wheat, accounting for over a third of the total. Canada was the second, followed by Australia. Sales by the US. were less than even Sweden and India.

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Sept. crop production report. Corn for grain production is forecast at 8 billion 270 million bushels, down 7 pct. from last year's record crop. Sorghum grain production is forecast at 873 million bushels, down 21 pct. from last year's record production. Feed grain production, including corn, sorghum, oats and barley, is expected to total 252 million metric tons, down 8 pct. from last year. Soybean production is forecast at 1 billion 980 million bushels, down 6 pct. from 1985. All wheat production is forecast at 2 billion 120 million bushels, the lowest level since 1978 and down 13 pct. from 1985.

WORLD OILSEEDS PRODUCTION EST. FOR 1986/87

The world production for oilseeds for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 197 million 500 thousand tons, up 1 pct. from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 60 million 400 thousand tons, down 8 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at a record 137 million 100 thousand tons, up 6 pct. from last year.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT CROP ESTIMATES...A smaller U.S. crop and larger exports has tightened U.S. cotton supply. USDA economist David Hull talks about the outlook and estimates for a number of major crops. Vic Powell interviews. (276)

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF RURAL BANKS...As many farm sector borrowers became financially stressed, the fortunes of agricultural lenders also faded. USDA economist James Mikesell takes a look at the financial status of rural banks. Vice Powell interviews. (277)

CURRENT TOBACCO OUTLOOK...Tobacco supplies are down as of September 1, and disappearance may rise for the 1986/87 year. USDA economist Verner Grise focuses on reasons behind the current decline in tobacco supplies. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (278)

USDA BEAGLE BRIGADE PROGRAM...The USDA is expanding its beagle dog program to sniff airline passenger baggage for prohibited fruit and meat. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng and Bill Helms, with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service talk about the importance of this program. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (279)

ACCIDENTAL FARM POISONING...Debra Bateman, a farm wife from Mansfield, Illinois, talks about the tragic death of her son due to an accidental farm poisoning, in the hopes of warning other farm families about the importance of farm safety practices. Gary Beaumont interviews. (280)

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1529...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) A long term heatwave? New evidence is causing more and more experts to consider something called the Greenhouse theory...which means the earth's weather is getting warmer and could have a disastrous effect on world agriculture. Gary Crawford reports.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1518...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Dairy situation; Silo dangers; Bio-control advisory.

CONSUMER TIME #1011...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) U.S. food in Thailand; Cataracts...disease of the eyes; Cataract prevention; Vitamins...to fight cataracts; The beagle brigade.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, Sept. 22, Hogs and pigs, livestock slaughter, vegetables; Tues, Sept. 23, World agriculture; Wed, Sept. 24, Agricultural resources. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Well, if you called to get on the telephone press conference with Sec'y Lyng from Uruguay during the GATT talks, you already know...we didn't make it. Things just didn't work out. We'll try again another time from another place ... Dix Harper (WRAL-TV/Tobacco Net, Raleigh So. Car.) reports on some "thank you" efforts relating to the hay deliveries to drought-stricken farmers in the SE. He said some people in his area planted some trees in Crawfordsville, IN, where Joe Jarvis at WCVL did so much to coordinate donations and deliveries. Dix also passed on the news that Ev Griner (Georgia Agrinews, Moultrie) is taking a group of agribusinessmen to Crawfordsville, Sept. 27 to put on a big catfish fry supper...all to say thanks for the help. Incidentally, Dix had called to get an answer to a listener's question: "Where did Sec'y Lyng go to college? In case you're wondering, too, he graduated cum laude from Univ. of Notre Dame in 1940 ... Mike Perrine (WJIL, Jacksonville, Ill.) reports his station has a new sister, WJVO-FM, that went on the air Sept. 1. Both stations are in new quarters with new equipment. Mike also reports lots of corn being harvested, some as high as 229 bushels per acre ("that's no-till, by the way") and some 64 bushel beans. Now if they can just find a place to store it ... We were talking via phone with Arnold Hartigan (Boise Interagency Fire Center, Boise, Idaho...and formerly with our USDA Radio Service) and learned that BIFC (pronounced BIFF-see) had received an Excellent Service award from the Interior Department (one of the six government agencies that make up and support the center). Earlier the center had received the Distinguished Service Award from USDA. After this year's fire season, the center's personnel deserve it all...and then some ... Layne Beaty (USDA Radio/TV Chief retired) stopped by and gave us a copy of the "Broadcast Pioneers Library" quarterly newsletter. Layne is a contributor to the library, doing some interesting history-on-tape interviews with pioneer broadcasters.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
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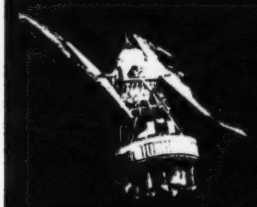

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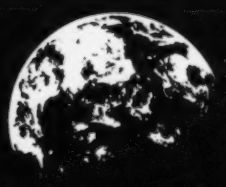

Letter No. 2281 Sept. 25, 1986

CROPS IN MARKET DECLINES

The sharpest year-to-year export market declines continue to be concentrated in corn, grain sorghum, barley, cotton, soybean oil and sunflowerseed exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Though cumulative exports-to-date of wheat and rice remain below last year's level, sharp gains have been posted in recent months due to implementation of the new marketing loan rates that lowered the effective market prices for these two commodities considerably. Value gains in exports of wheat flour, soybeans, soybean meal, beef and veal, poultry products, corn gluten feed and some horticultural products have partially offset the declines in U.S. exports.

OCT.-JULY EXPORTS & IMPORTS

U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-July 1986 totaled $22 billion 500 million, down $4 billion 800 million, or 18 pct., from the same period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. agricultural imports for Oct.-July 1986 totaled $17 billion 700 million, up 7 pct. from Oct.-July 1985. The overall net surplus of agricultural trade during Oct.-July 1986 amounted to $4 billion 800 million, down 56 pct. from a net surplus of $10 billion 700 million during the same period a year earlier.

DEBT-ASSET RATIO STABILIZING

The farm sector's debt-to-asset ratio, which worsened from 1982 to 1985, is beginning to stabilize, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The ratio, commonly used to measure financial strength, rose from 20.8 pct. in 1982 to 24.9 pct. in 1985, because farm real estate values fell faster than debts were paid off. But cash income is record high in 1986 and farmers' production expenses are dropping. Farm debt has decreased as much as $22 billion during 1983-86. By the end of 1986, farmers will have completed 4 years of perhaps a 6-year debt-reduction and asset-devaluation process.

SUMMARY OF DROUGHT

From late July to early Sept., an estimated 70,000 tons of hay, worth around $10 million, were delivered to drought-stricken farmers in 12 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, crop conditions have improved after four consecutive weeks of rain. Soybeans in particular are making a comeback. Sec'y of Agric. Richard Lyng had designated as disaster areas 567 counties in 12 States, as well as 124 contiguous counties.

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EC GRAIN SUBSIDIES

The European Community continues to raise its wheat and barley export subsidies, and now have reached $112 per ton for wheat and $124 for barley, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These increases have doubled the Community's costs for subsidizing grain exports this year compared to last year. Contributing to the increased subsidy costs are: The weaker dollar, falling world prices and stronger EC internal prices which have widened the gap between EC and world prices.

LOOKING OVER 40 YEARS

At market prices prevailing during 1940 to 1985, the United States produced more grain, oilseeds, cotton and dairy products than it could sell, either domestically or overseas. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this excess production capacity averaged 6 pct. of total U.S. agricultural output during 1979-85...and 13 pct. for wheat, feed grains, soybeans and cotton. This inefficient use of resources was mainly caused by prices being supported above market-clearing levels, and consequent export market losses.

MORE MEAT... MORE COARSE GRAINS

The world meat production is expected to grow around 1 pct. in 1986, as a marginal decline in beef, veal, lamb and mutton will be more than offset by increased pork and poultry meat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The demand for meat and meat products is increasing most rapidly in the middle-income countries, and those countries are prime prospects for U.S. coarse grain exports. Countries where meat demand is growing faster than coarse grain production are likely to turn to world markets for imports, much of which could come from the U.S.

COARSE GRAIN EXPORTS - 1986

There is a potential for increased future exports of coarse grain due to increased meat consumption in middle-income countries. However, fiscal 1986 U.S. coarse grain exports are expected to fall more than $3 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nearly half the decline is from a large drop in demand by the USSR. Also, many traditional U.S. coarse grain competitors had larger supplies to export, and the dollar was still strong against their currencies. U.S. exports of livestock, poultry, and dairy products are expected to rise in fiscal 1986, and will probably exceed coarse grain exports in value for the first time since 1961.

SALE OF FmHA LOAN NOTES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, on Sept. 24, selected Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company to serve as a financial advisor to its Farmers Home Administration. Manufacturers Hanover will assist the agency in planning and carrying out the sale of about $1 billion in loans from a revolving fund used to finance loans to rural communities for such projects as water and sewer systems. The 1986 fiscal year budget resolution, passed in April, requires FmHA to sell enough loans from the rural development fund to provide $555 million toward deficit reduction.

CONSERVATION RESERVE

The total area accepted into the Conservation Reserve Program climbed 5 million 100 thousand acres to 8 million 900 thousand during the August sign-up, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This put the program ahead of the pace needed to reach the goal of 40-45 million acres by 1990.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...The farm sector's debt-to-asset ratio, which worsened from 1982 to 1985, is beginning to stabilize. USDA economist Herb Moses explains what this means as well as other factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (281)

CURRENT DAIRY OUTLOOK...USDA economist Jim Miller examines the current dairy situation and outlook, including the Dairy Termination Program and its affect on milk production and prices. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (282)

SUGARS AND SWEETENERS OUTLOOK...U.S. sugar production is forecast to increase from 6.03 million short tons in 1985 to 6.4 million short tons in 1986. USDA economist David Harvey takes a look at factors contributing to the current increase. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (283)

SOUTH ASIA OUTLOOK...In the nations of South Asia, improved local food grain supplies and competition from other exports have caused the fourth consecutive year of decline in U.S. exports to the region. USDA economist Maurice Landes discusses the decline in U.S. agricultural trade to South Asia. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (284)

CHANGES IN PHILIPPINES...USDA economist Leslie Ross focuses on the struggling economy in the Philippines and some of the changes being made by the new governments to improve on the agricultural sector. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (285)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1530...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Trace elements, some of which are considered poisons in large doses, are actually essential for us to keep on living. Brenda Curtis talks with a nutrition scientist about trace elements.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1519...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Export program repeated; Mariculture--A new industry; New research on the Colorado potato beetle.

CONSUMER TIME #1012...A living legacy; Fish hotdogs; Baseball and cigars from the Dominican Republic; Changes in national forests?; All-weather clothing.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Oct. 7, Crop and weather update; Fri, Oct. 10, U.S. crop production; World agricultural supply and demand; Soviet crop production; Tues, Oct. 14, World crop report, World oilseed and World cotton situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Joe Kafka (Associated Press Radio, Washington, D.C.) will have left his Washington post by the time you read this to work in the AP bureau in Pierre, S. Dak. His replacement here is Thom Wilborm (he pronounces it Tom) ... Bob Bosold (WAXX, Eau Clair, Wis.) reports in his latest newsletter that his Alaskan tour was a goodie. He says some of the group met with a former Wisconsin farmer Earl Lackey who took all his farm machinery with him five years ago, which involved making 14 trips up the Alaska Highway. The startling thing is that each round trip was nearly 7,000 miles. Whew! ... Speaking of newsletters, we received a new one in the mail, called the TARN Agri-Bulletin. It's put out by Stewart Doan Bob Buice, and Kathleen Lonergan at the Arkansas Radio Net in Little Rock ... Thank you letter from Jamie Kaestner (National Cattlemen's Assn, Englewood, Colo.) for some information we dug up for her. She also commiserated with us about the disruption our recent paint job created. Then she reminisced about working at a station undergoing some newsroom remodeling that required the news wire being located temporarily in the (co-ed) bathroom. As Jamie describes it, "If the machine 'dinged' three or more times, and you were in the bathroom, you had to immediately 'rip the wire' and shove it under the door." Ah, the memories ... We accidentally shoved a letter from Layne Beaty (USDA Radio/TV Chief, retired) into the back part of a drawer, and it just surfaced. In it he reported he and Virginia had spent some time in Salt Lake City and while there visited John Berg at KSL. His comment: "What poshy digs they have!!" We agree. We toured the "digs" during the 1985 NAFB Western Regional meeting. Layne reported that John said former KSL farm director Ted Capener is now vice president at University of Utah...and that Lynn Adair also former KSL farm director and 1974 NAFB president, is now in farm and ranch real estate in nearby Bountiful, Utah.

Jim Johnson

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